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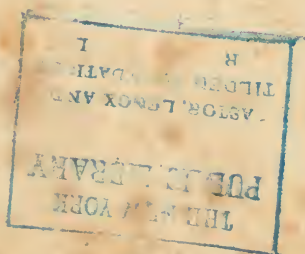


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FIRE-SIDE STORIES;

OR,

RECOLLECTIONS

OF

MY SCHOOL-FELLOWS.

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "THE PICTURE GALLERY," &c.

SECOND AMERICAN EDITION.

New-York:

**PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM BURGESS,
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PREFACE.

It has been said, by a writer of some eminence, that “a Preface, being the porch by which a reader is to enter into a book, it ought to be beautiful, that it may tempt him to proceed.”

Though this observation may apply with much truth, to works that are strictly original; yet the author of the following little volume can only express her hope, that the simplicity and plainness of the entrance, may not deter the public from proceeding in its perusal; but that they may find reason to approve, in proportion as they advance through its pages.

It remains for her only to say, that she has endeavoured so to mingle instruction with amusement, that the one cannot be separated from the other; and that, in laying the scenes in countries somewhat less familiar than most, to the juvenile mind, she has been indebted for the substance of the information she communicates, to the most modern and most generally-approved travellers.

FIRE-SIDE STORIES.

CHAPTER I.

AT the close of a long and eventful life, during which I have crossed oceans, traversed distant countries, visited the remains of art, and observed the manners and habits of men, I do not know that I can better devote the residue of my days, than in relating to my young friends those incidents which have most interested me, or those reflections which I have found the most profitable ; for time, whilst it has blanched my hair, and furrowed my cheeks, has not lessened my interest in the rising generation, nor my desires for their best welfare, and their advancement in knowledge and virtue.

I was the son and heir of a widow lady in the west of England, and, like most other only children, I was at once the object of the most unbounded affection, and the most unceasing solicitude ; a solicitude which, I mourn to say, I often repaid with ingratitude, and received with indifference,

My disposition was animated and active, and my spirits buoyant even to restlessness. I loved trap-ball and cricket and leap-frog, and every game that called forth my boyish vigour, or displayed my youthful strength; and some of the happiest moments that I recollect of this period of my life, were, when I could steal unperceived from the parlour for a few minutes, and discover my youthful prowess by wielding my tiny spade, and vying with Bob, the gardener's son, in turning up the ground that bordered the shrubbery.

Unhappily for me, the anxiety of my fond mother saw dangers or difficulties in every thing that was not carried on under her immediate eye; and I now look back with sorrow on the perverse and wayward humours which I displayed, when checked in my favourite plans by her maternal anxieties, and obliged to resign my darling avocations for a sober ride in the carriage, or a walk round the grounds, attended by my watchful nurse, (for I still had a nurse, though I was eleven years of age,) and buttoned up in my little coat, lest the keenness of the air, or the dampness of the morning, should occasion my taking cold.

Still do I recollect the constant cry of my servant, "Master Henry, you must not walk so fast,

or you will overheat yourself:" "Master Henry, you must not run down the hill, or you will fall;" and many was the race I gave poor Ann, when, wearied out with control, I determined to follow my own will, and set off at full speed, leaving her to catch me as she could.

At length, however, she resigned her charge, to the great grief of my mother, declaring that I was grown past her management; and she was succeeded in her employment by a middle-aged, respectable footman. This was a new era in my life: it released me from my most insupportable thralldom, and it opened a fresh scene to my view; for this man, who was a widower, had also an only son, who was apprenticed to a carpenter, in the little village which stood at a short distance from our grounds. Never shall I forget the pleasure which I felt on first entering the shop at which he worked, when one morning, I had prevailed on my attendant to stroll beyond our usual boundaries. Here was at once food for my curiosity, and opportunity to exercise my ingenuity; and I very narrowly escaped with an accident, in pressing Will Shepherd to allow me to saw off the corner of a very tempting piece of wood, on which he was working. From this moment, I was never

easy unless I was at the shop ; and a wheelbarrow, which was made for me under my own inspection, although very far inferior to the one I was already in possession of, appeared to me the very summit of perfection.

Had these visits continued long, there is every reason to fear that, with the love of occupation, I should have gained a taste for low society ; and I only mention it to prove, that industry is a healthy child's natural element ; that they are never so happy as when actively engaged ; that the exercise of their ingenuity is at once a source of honest gratification and useful amusement ; and that the foundation of future indolence and misfortune, is frequently to be traced to those nursery indulgences and mistaken kindnesses, which debilitate the body, and incapacitate the mind for exertion.

Our visits, at length, were discovered ; and my servant was dismissed, as unworthy of the confidence that was reposed in him. Many a long and weary day of supineness and nothingness succeeded ; and cheerfulness and vivacity gave way to ill-humour and constant discontent, till even my health suffered from my peevishness.

At this period, however, I was suddenly deprived of my affectionate mother, and, with all my

waywardness of temper, my pampered appetites, my uncontrolled humours, transferred by my guardians to a large public school, far from this home of unbounded affection, this scene of incessant attention to my wishes, this domicile of infant pride and power ; (for I *was* proud and imperious ;) a stranger amidst the busy multitude ; a humoured child, accustomed to think of himself as the only object in the world worth notice, and now, for the first time in his life, cast among a crowd, and henceforth to be regarded, not with reference to his wealth and pretensions, but according to the talents he displayed, or the dispositions he discovered.

After having been introduced into the playground, and undergone a long examination from some of the senior boys, to which I answered rather sulkily and haughtily, I was claimed as *fag* by a lad named Fellows, and was told that I should be installed into my new office on the following morning. Little did I then know the import of the word *fag*, though but few days had elapsed, ere my quondam master taught me to appreciate the full extent of my duties : to fetch and to carry for him ; to be sent, when I came shivering to the fire to the further end of the playground,

for a ball or a bat which he had forgotten ; to clean his slate, place his book in readiness for him, and leave my own exercises to minister to his pleasures or whims were only a part of my duties. He absolutely insisted on my going to bed before him, and then just as I was become warm and comfortable, he would force me to rise and vacate it for him, leaving me to seek my own cold dormitory.

Many and many a time did I rebel against his tyranny, and I was pronounced the most imperious and untractable temper that the school produced. Numerous were the schemes that were laid to subdue my temper, and break down my obstinacy. Had these plans been judicious, perhaps they might have succeeded ; but, in proportion as Fellows oppressed, I resisted : nay, more, the treatment I received had a very unhappy effect upon my mind. I fancied that I was despised, and therefore I shunned communion with my school-fellows. I became gloomy and reserved ; and from the humiliations that were inflicted, I turned with a stronger determination not to yield, and with a prouder and still fiercer spirit. The elder boys, therefore, ridiculed my pretensions, and the younger ones dreaded my insolence ; till, from *supposing* I was avoided, I came to *know* that I was positively disliked.

Things were in this state when the arrival of two new scholars produced a fresh sensation in our little world. Edward Mackenzie, the oldest of the strangers, was fourteen years of age. His manly and candid countenance, his good-humoured yet dignified manners, produced an instant and open declaration in his favour. This was immediately confirmed, by finding that his acquirements and talents placed him in the first class at school; whilst his skill and agility in all our games, rendered him a very important and interesting person in the play-ground.

His brother Charles was one year younger. His disposition was equally good, and his abilities quite as respectable for his age. He had little of his brother's vivacity, still less of his fondness for active pursuits; and his studious and retired disposition, whilst it kept him aloof from the noisy gambols of the school, yet gave promise of future excellence, and even distinction, in the path of life that he should hereafter follow. He also, soon became properly appreciated; and few, if any, were the provocations offered to a boy, who neither incited to acts of rudeness, nor suffered them to pass without a proper explanation.

I, of course, was neither on a footing with Ed-

ward Mackenzie, nor for an instant sought to be acquainted with Charles. I looked upon another senior pupil as only an additional tyrant; and I had too little love for my compeers, to think of endeavouring to overcome my reserve, for the purpose of finding a companion in his brother.

Whilst all the rest, therefore, gathered round them, I stood moody and alone; and on being ordered to fetch something for Fellows, I turned on my heel and left them, to enjoy my own dismal reflections.

A circumstance, however, soon occurred, which introduced me to the notice of Edward Mackenzie. A plan had been formed by Fellows for robbing a neighbouring orchard. Mackenzie had been asked to join, but he had positively refused; and as his courage had been tried and proved, his objections were only received in silence. I, of course, as *fag*, was ordered to attend; and after having been enjoined secrecy, I was stationed as centinel, whilst my tormentor and his companions climbed the trees. Just as they had secured an ample booty, a dog was heard to bark, and my signal was given. Fellows leaped instantly down, and in a few moments they were all out of sight. I only, who was forced to stay to pick up the bag

which Fellows had dropped, was delayed in my flight, and in a few moments found myself in the grasp of the exasperated farmer.

It was not only being detained at his house during the night that I dreaded : I well knew that the following day would bring a flogging ; and though it was at the risk of future misery if I dared to divulge the names of my companions, yet still I abhorred the suffering I must undergo for my tyrant. Severe, indeed, were my mental struggles during that night ; but my resolution was taken, and on being led into the school on the following morning as a culprit, I met such a glance from Fellows, as would have determined me, had no other motive swayed me. But at this moment my pride was roused : I longed to show to the boys my firmness : yes, I longed to prove that I was a *man* in spirit, and that Telemachus himself (with whose history I was much enamoured) could not have kept a secret more sacred than Henry Daltry.

Accordingly, in answer to every inquiry I was silent ; and I bore the severe punishment inflicted, apparently unmoved. But when we broke up for play, I did hope that, in the congratulations of my schoolfellows, I should at least have been repaid. Some of the young ones *did* raise their

voices in my praise ; but my ambition soared far beyond *their* applause, and not a little mortification did I experience, in finding that the elder boys were too much occupied with some new project, to talk about me ; and when I turned for applause to Fellows, he tauntingly replied, that "I had only done my duty." Irritated at his manner, I demanded haughtily my share of the booty, this also he refused ; and when I insisted on having my portion, he bit off a piece of an apple which he held in his hand, and threw it in my face. I could bear it no longer, and, in a moment of ungoverned rage, I struck him a blow, which he returned with a force that instantly laid me on the ground. A battle ensued, in which, as may be supposed, I was thoroughly beaten ; and unable to restrain my mortification and my passion, I covered my face with my hands and wept bitterly. At this moment Edward Mackenzie passed, who, on seeing my grief, stopped to inquire into the cause.

At first I remained silent and sullen, but the tones of kindness were so new to me, that insensibly my reserve gave way, and I confessed to him the whole state of the case. When I had finished, he endeavoured to persuade me to dry my tears,

commended my adherence to my promise of secrecy, but pointed out to me the error of giving my promise in a wrong cause. "The firmness you have shown, Daltry," said he, "ought to have been exerted at *first*: we should refuse positively to commit evil, though presented to us in any form. It is your duty, according to the rules of the school, to serve Fellows, when he does not demand any thing contrary to rectitude and right principles; but not even the orders of our superiors should ever lead us to commit a wrong action. For my own part," he continued, "I think theft of any sort decidedly wicked; and I fancy the old proverb is not very far from the truth, when it says,

‘That he who learns to steal a pin,
In time will steal a greater thing.’

And though robbing an orchard is, I know, by schoolboys, considered as a clever thing; yet remember, when you take but an apple from another, you break one of the commandments, and one which is positively enjoined: you remember it Daltry?" he said, kindly: "'Thou shalt not steal.'"

"But they would say, that I was more than ever obstinate, if I refused," I replied. "*Obstinacy*,"

answered Mackenzie, "is persisting in our own will in a *wrong* cause. *Decision* is firmness in a *right* one. We may and ought to yield, when required, our tastes and inclinations to others, but we should *never* compromise our principles." He then mildly pointed out to me some little points of perversity, which had led me into trouble; and shaking me by the hand, assured me I should always find a friend in him. From this moment, I formed an attachment for Mackenzie; and, to my subsequent introduction to his father's house, I am indebted for the cultivation of those better tempers, and the foundation of those excellent sentiments, which as far as I have followed them, have proved productive of happiness, smoothed many a rugged path, cheered me in depression, and enabled me to walk respectably and steadily through life.

I had soon an opportunity of observing that Edward's practice kept pace with his professions, and that he never enforced upon my attention any thing that he was not disposed to exemplify in his own conduct.

Not all the temptations of a large public school could ever lead the Mackenzies to deviate from the straight path of honour and rectitude. Sub-

terfuge they abhorred, and evasion, in any shape, their candid minds shrank from. The instance, indeed which I am about to bring forward, may appear trifling, but it is to little every-day occurrences that we must look for the true estimate of character. It is not doing, occasionally, a splendid thing, that stamps a man as really great and good. Such an opportunity of distinguishing ourselves may never occur ; and they who are overlooking hourly duties, as too little and mean for their notice, will, in all probability pass a very useless life. To be constantly on our guard against the encroachments of temper ; to quell the first emotions of envy ; to give praise to another when it is deserved ; to see ourselves thrown into shade, and to be able to rejoice unfeignedly in another's success ; to speak truth, even when our veracity may occasion us censure—this is true magnanimity of spirit, this is genuine superiority of mind ; and it outweighs, in its practical benefits, many of those brilliant actions, that gain for their hero the uncertain applause of a versatile crowd.

But to return to the incident to which I alluded.

A little dog, belonging to one of the ushers, had become a great favourite among the boys : and one day, as Edward and Charles Mackenzie, with

Fellows, were by themselves in the school-room, they amused themselves by making Fido jump over the desk which stood in the room, to pick up a glove, or an apple, which the boys alternately threw to the other side. In the eagerness of their pursuit, they did not perceive that an ink-glass had been carelessly left on the desk by another lad, till, by an unexpected leap, Fido struck his hind legs against it, and, in an instant, it lay in shivers on the ground.

Their play immediately ceased : the boys for an instant looked at each other with much alarm, for they well knew that the usher to whom it belonged, was a severe man, and that acts of carelessness frequently incurred an equal punishment with errors of a far more heinous nature.

“What can we do?” said Fellows, turning to his companions, as they stood gazing on the sparkling fragments : “what can we do?”

“Do !” replied Edward ; “we must go instantly, and tell Mr. Smith the whole truth.”

“What, tell Mr. Smith !” answered Fellows, in astonishment : “why, you would not surely be such a fool, as to get a flogging for such a trifle. Better, by half, shut Fido into the room, and let them suppose it was his puppy which broke it ;

and he won't flog his own dog, I'll be bound to say. So you see no harm will be done, and the blame will fall where it should on Master Fido: eh, Fido! eh!" he said, stroking the dog's long ears, "what say you to a whipping, Master Fido?"

"You would not be so mean, surely?" said Charles.

"Mean, indeed," answered Fellows, "that's just like you: always preaching up nursery notions. Let me tell you, young gentleman, when you have seen a little more of the world, you will become wiser. Besides, I say," he repeated, seeing that Charles was about to reply, "it *was* his dog that broke it, and I see no reason why we should suffer for his fault."

"But Fellows," said Edward, "evasion is as wrong as positive falsehood. It is true, that it was the puppy's legs that threw down the glass, but it was *we* who enticed him into the room; and it was through *our* carelessness, in not examining the desk, that the accident happened."

"Well, Master Wiseacre," retorted Fellows. "do as you like; but I shall take care how I play again with such mighty men of truth."

Notwithstanding the sneer with which this speech was accompanied, and which shook for a

moment poor Charles's resolution, more than all the arguments which had been used, they yet repaired directly to Mr. Smith, generously taking upon themselves the whole blame, and not even alluding to the presence of Fellows at the same time.

"My good boys," said Mr. Smith, (who, though a severe, was by no means an unjust man,) "the honour and truth that you have this day evinced, deserves encouragement instead of blame. The act of carelessness will not, I trust, occur again, and I shall, therefore, pass it over without any further observation, hoping that your example will extend its influence through the school, and ardently wishing that you may ever retain the excellent principles that you have received. Trifles, my lads, 'make the sum of human things:' trifles often stamp our character through life; and he who disdains falsehood, or even evasion, in a matter of little consequence, may be trusted in things of moment."

CHAPTER II.

I HAD hitherto spent my holidays at school, and dreary seasons they were. My guardians did not seem to think it necessary to send for me to their houses ; and, indeed, the character of unamiability which I bore, rendered me no very desirable companion. But now, Edward Mackenzie obtained permission for me to accompany himself and brother home, and early one bright summer morning we set out for the parental residence.

We had a very merry journey ; for Edward was uncommonly playful, and even Charles was unusually animated. In proportion as we drew nearer, their hilarity increased. Every field, every hedge, every lane, seemed known to them. In this place they had played at cricket, here they had gone nutting, and there they had flown their kite ; so that in short, every step seemed but the prelude to a new story, or the scene of some happy incident. At length, Edward exclaimed, "There is our house." "What ! that neat, pretty house we see through the trees ?" I said, "it is not so large as ours was." "Perhaps not," said Edward ; "but I dare say it is as comfortable,

and I am sure I would not change it for any other, be it ever so grand."

I felt a little ashamed at Edward's having seen my spirit of pride, and was therefore silent, till Charles exclaimed: "Look, Edward, there are Tom, William, and great Jowler, running down the lane." In an instant the coach stopped, and we were saluted by two younger boys, accompanied by a large Newfoundland dog, which seemed, by its gestures, to share in the joy of the party. Giving our luggage to the servant, we walked at a brisk pace till we came in sight of the garden, at the entrance of which we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie, with three daughters.

In all my wanderings round "this world of care," in all the various vicissitudes of my progress, I can positively assure my young readers, that the loveliest and most interesting sight that I have ever witnessed, is that of an affectionate and united family. Without domestic harmony, I have beheld splendid misery; and with it, happy poverty.

It was this delightful spirit that reigned in the family of the Mackenzies: it regulated their actions, and lent a sweetness and gentleness to their manners, which no polish, independently of it,

could confer; for I have ascertained, my dear young friends, that real politeness is founded on a kind and obliging disposition, and that they only are uniformly genteel, who are always careful of the feelings of others. If it should be said, that perhaps the disposition of the Mackenzies was unusually good, I must beg leave to observe, that I do not attribute their excellencies so much to natural amiability, as to the sound precepts they received from their excellent mother. From her lips flowed their first lessons in knowledge and piety; and from her example they learnt to appreciate the loveliness and propriety of the truths she taught. Whilst the most complete openness and unrestrained affection were preserved, there never was the least appearance of rudeness permitted to each other. I have often observed in other families, that many of those little jars which disturb the peace of its members, arise from the want of respect towards each other. Expressions and looks, which they would blush to use to strangers, are yet addressed to those to whom they are bound by every tie of love and duty.

*"Please is a very little word,
And thank you is not long,"*

said Emma to little Charlotte with a smile, when

she omitted the customary reply, and by such gentle and winning remarks were the youngest children trained in this habitual politeness.

There was also another point of character in this estimable circle, which I cannot refrain from mentioning, because, although a decided Christian virtue, I have unhappily mourned its absence, where I should have most looked for its presiding influence: I mean the almost total absence of scandal and tattling which prevailed. To effect this, Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie pursued a different course from that which is usually adopted by parents: they did not insist on a total silence on these points, because they knew that the children would amply requite themselves, by talking more fully and freely when alone, for the restraint imposed upon them in their presence; but they listened to their remarks, and either pointed out extenuations for the absent, or what was, perhaps, equally striking, proved to them, from their own observations, that they were often guilty of the *spirit* of the fault which they were condemning.

I remember, one evening, little Clara, on her return from a visit, expatiated at some length on the greediness of another young lady, in taking both times, when the plum-cake was handed

round, "not only the largest, but the *only* pieces which had ice upon them."

"Did you ask her if she was very fond of the sugar icing?" said her mamma. "Yes, mamma," replied Clara; "and she said she was excessively fond of it: those were her very words, ma'a."

"And did you tell her that you also were excessively fond of it," said her papa, "and that you thought that you had an equal right to one of these said tempting pieces?"

"No, papa," replied Clara, "I should have been ashamed of saying that: she would have thought me so covetous, and I despise selfishness."

"And yet, my dear Clara," said her mamma, "I fancy your strong indignation at it arises partly from an indulgence of the same spirit. Although you had plenty of nice plum-cake, you were not satisfied with it, but you envied her what you conceived to be a richer morsel; and your indignation at what you term her greediness, arises as much from your own disappointment as from her error. We may regret the prevalence of evil passions, when we see them directed towards another; but when our own propensities are concerned, we should carefully examine whether it is *self-mortification* we are lamenting, instead of the wrong principle, as we imagine."

I cannot pretend to tell you what an influence the example of this family had on my mind—how often I proved the truth of the declaration, that “a soft answer turneth away wrath.” How often my irascibility was checked by observing their gentleness; and my pride and vanity dwindled into insignificance, when put in comparison with their unassuming and active virtues. Theirs was the language of *conduct*, and it was eloquence that carried conviction to my bosom.

Could I be haughty, when all around were humble? Could I be imperious, when all were kind and condescending? Could I give way to passion, when each one sought to avoid giving offence, or endeavoured instantly to make reparation for any slight I might fancy I had received? No: my sullenness gave way under their benevolence, and all my kinder feelings expanded; for here they were cultivated and brought into action: and when, after a six weeks’ vacation, I returned to school, I carried with me, not only the kind wishes of the Mackenzies, but my own earnest desires and resolutions, that, by my future improvement, I might become more worthy of the regard I was anxious to secure.

That I had many very difficult struggles with my long-cherished propensities, and that it was some months ere I seemed, even to myself, to

make any progress, is true ; but the sincere and the persevering will eventually succeed, and ere we returned again for the holidays, I had secured the approbation of my preceptors, and the goodwill of many of the best pupils.

Oh ! with what joy did we look forward to the renewal of those happy days we had passed in the summer ! and in the warm welcome we received, we were not disappointed. But there was sadness mingled with Mrs. Mackenzie's affectionate greeting, and Mr. Mackenzie looked graver than usual. "Where is Emma?" said Edward, as he missed her in the animated group : "is she not well?"

"Emma," replied Mrs. Mackenzie, "is very unwell ; but she wishes to see you, and after tea, you shall go into her room."

Emma, indeed, was confined to her bed by an accident, that arose from her good-humoured desire of amusing her youngest sister. Running at full speed after little Charlotte, she came suddenly in contact with a door in a dark passage, and received a violent blow on the knee-pan. Finding herself, after the sharpness of the first pain had subsided, but little inconvenienced by it, the necessary precautions were not adopted, and thus an insidious and dangerous disease was suffered to gain an alarming height.

No positive determination, as to the extent of the danger was, however, pronounced, till a few days after our arrival: the dreadful truth then burst upon all with overwhelming force, and immediate amputation of the leg was pronounced necessary. As no time was to be lost, Mr. Mackenzie undertook the painful task of breaking the mournful intelligence to his child. Emma received the sad information in silence, and for some minutes tears rapidly chased each other down her pallid cheeks: at last checking her emotion, she said, in a low but firm tone, "Allow me, my dear papa, to be left alone for half an hour: at the expiration of that time, I will ring the bell."

The request was instantly granted: the interval was spent by Emma in fervent supplications for strength, and the bell was heard to ring as the hand of the clock stood on the expired half hour.

"Are the medical gentlemen here, papa?" she inquired, as Mr. Mackenzie entered the room.

"They are, my love," he replied.

"Then will you say, papa, that I am ready," she answered; and with such patience and fortitude did the suffering, but heroic child undergo the operation, that not a flower was displaced in a small bouquet* that was given her to hold during the amputation.

* A fact.

It was hoped that Emma's calmness and freedom from all irritability would have seconded the efforts of the surgeons ; but, exhausted by previous pain, her constitution could not support the additional suffering, and she sank rapidly, but quietly under the effects of her disease.

Many years have passed away since those days of sorrow, but never can I revert to that period, without feelings of deep but melancholy interest ; and as the voice of panegyric cannot reach the dead, and as the force of example outweighs the language of precept, I may, perhaps, be allowed to expatiate for a few moments on the virtues of Emma. In my subsequent progress through life, I have often been recalled, in recollection, to her, and confirmed in an observation I have often heard, that modesty is invariably an attendant on real abilities ; and when I have noticed the pertness and idleness of some who have fancied themselves possessed of genius, merely because they could easily commit to memory a lesson, could scribble a few lines of indifferent poetry, or possessed a superficial acquaintance with music or painting, how have I contrasted her unassuming talents, with her assiduity and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge. Genius, indeed, is by no means conferred on the multitude ; though no error is more

common than that of mistaking showy acquirements for real acquisitions, or quickness of comprehension, united to some taste, for innate superiority. Never to *begin* any thing that she did not mean to *finish*, was one of Emma's rules ; for if, as she would say, a thing was *worth* doing at all, it was worth doing *well*. But it is not on her mental excellencies that I purpose dwelling : it was her unaffected piety, her unvarying sweetness of temper, her generosity in appreciating the virtues or talents of others, her watchfulness over her own faults, and her obedience to her affectionate parents that gained her the love of her own family. She never for an instant thought, that superior abilities released her from the obligation of the domestic duties ;—that, because she was clever she might indulge wayward humours ;—that, because she was highly gifted, she might look down with contempt on those who were inferior. Surely it behoves those on whom are bestowed great endowments, to evince their sense of the blessing, by the cultivation of every benevolent disposition, by the desire to render themselves more generally useful, through the influence they possess over the minds of their young companions.

At the expiration of these sorrowful holidays we returned to school ; and as I took my place in the

first class, I was now regarded as a senior pupil, and released from the thralldom of Fellows.

I should tell you, that Emma, just before her death, had given to her brother Edward a vinaigrette as a keepsake. This, at the moment of receiving it, he had put into his pocket, fully intending to lay it by in some secure place ; but the fault of Edward, and a serious one it is, was that of putting off till to-morrow, what should be done to-day. The consequence was, that it remained where he had first thrust it ; and thus, in the after loss of this memento of a sister whom he had loved and prized, he had not only to rue the deprivation of Emma's parting gift, but to undergo self-condemnation for unwarrantable carelessness.

It happened, as I tell you, to remain in his pocket, and being engaged one day warmly in a game of cricket, he did not perceive that it had caught the corner of the handkerchief, which he hastily pulled out of his coat pocket, and that it had fallen on the grass. But, although it was not remarked by Edward, it did not lie unperceived. Fellows, of whom I have so often spoken, had noticed it, and the moment Mackenzie quitted his post, he ran and picked it up ; not, I regret to say, with an intention to return it, but with the dishonest determination to secrete it. I never was a friend to á

minute detail of delinquency, and therefore I shall not repeat all the sad faults of this unhappy boy, of whom I shall have occasion hereafter to speak. The good had better remain in ignorance of vice, and to the bad my recital would furnish no novelty. All I shall say is, that he was an adept in every act or trick that required evasion or agility to prevent detection. He had been a spoiled boy ; and, unfortunately, his father had never sufficiently checked his propensity to falsehood. He would sometimes smile, and tell him, " he must not draw the long-bow so often," and thus, by softening the term, deprive the vice itself of its heinousness ; or, he would laugh at his son's power of outwitting the less wary, and repeat some of his exploits, as a good joke, till Fellows actually learned to think, that to do a cunning thing, or, as he termed it, a *clever* thing, was better than to do a right one,

CHAPTER III.

AT the end of this year, both Fellows and Edward Mackenzie left school ; and as my guardians deemed it best for me to spend a short time under the care of an accomplished and excellent clergyman, previously to my entering at college, we all three took our leave at the same time.

I had been in this situation about twelve months, when, taking up the newspaper one day, I was shocked to perceive the trial of William Fellows, for defrauding the gentleman with whom he was placed. I instantly wrote to Mackenzie for farther particulars, because, from the nature of his mercantile engagements, I knew that he must often have had intercourse with the unhappy delinquent, and from him I soon received a confirmation of my fears.

Fellows, it appeared, on leaving the academy, had been placed in a merchant's counting-house ; and soon, as might be expected, fell a victim to his own arts. Passionately addicted to every kind of amusement, and with a taste for dress and show

that far exceeded the ample allowance that was made him he flew to the gaming-table, in the desperate hope of retrieving his sinking funds. He was unsuccessful : again he tried, and again he incurred debts to an enormous amount. He had no resources of any kind, and a prison alone presented itself to his view. Under these circumstances, is it to be wondered at, that a mind like that of Fellows yielded to temptation ? In a state almost of frenzy, he sought the counting-house, and there secreted a large sum of money, that in the absence of his master, had been paid into his hands by a gentleman.

The theft was discovered, and the offender secured. A long, tedious imprisonment followed : the ignominy of a public trial succeeded ; and it was only through a flaw in the indictment, that he received his liberty. But his character was irrevocably gone, and he knew not whither to turn. In this dilemma, his father heard of a relation, who was about to undertake a voyage to Africa, for the purposes of discovery, and he prevailed upon him by entreaties and tears, added to his son's promises of amendment, to allow him to accompany him thither, as an assistant.

About this time, I had business which required my presence in London ; and, on calling on Mac-

kenzie, he informed me, that it was his intention to visit poor Fellows ere he entirely left his native country. Accordingly, we took a boat and rowed towards the ship, which was lying in the river, and waiting only for a favourable breeze to carry it far from the shores of happy England.

Never, never can I forget that visit. We were both struck with the alteration that time, dissipation, and sorrow had made in the appearance of our fallen school-fellow. The gay, the haughty Fellows, had become humble and penitent; and he, who before had looked down on every one, now seemed to consider himself as one of the meanest and most guilty of his race. "I have found," said he to Edward, whilst a deep blush overspread his cheeks, "amongst my things, a vinaigrette which was once yours, that you dropped, and I picked up. Would that I had never yielded to temptation even in *trifles*, and then I should have shrunk from crimes of magnitude; but he who willingly commits what he may term little sins, can never say, 'So far will I go, and no farther.'"

We left him at the conclusion of this speech, and the next morning we heard he had sailed.

It is not my intention to enter into a description of the voyage, nor of the various places at which

they touched in their progress towards the place of their destination. Unhappily for them, just off the north of Cape Blanco, a violent storm arose ; peals of the most awful thunder rent the air, and the forked lightning seemed to illuminate the whole expanse of the heavens. As Fellows stood gazing in mute astonishment, he was suddenly roused from his position, by the cry of "the ship on fire." It was, alas ! too true : one tremendous flash of lightning had split in two the mizen mast and he had but just time to escape into the long-boat ere he beheld the whole vessel in flames. It was a majestic, but mournful sight. The almost intense darkness of the night was, for a season lighted up by volleys of flames, that burst forth from every part of the ship, whilst the surrounding shoals were, at intervals, sufficiently illuminated to inform the crew of their danger, and then again shrouded from their sight, by the black clouds that covered the whole face of the sky. At this moment a wave washed over the boat, and swept off the unhappy traveller under whose care Fellows was placed, and he sunk to rise no more. However, at last, after surmounting incredible dangers, they gained the shore, and exhausted as they were, they succeeded in climbing the rocks that every where presented themselves, and determined

to remain upon their summits till morning should break over their heads.

But on the dawn of day what a sight presented itself to them ! An immense plain covered with white sand, over which were thinly scattered a few few creeping plants resembling branches of coral, extended as far as the eye could reach ; whilst the distant hills, covered with wild fern, presented the appearance of an interminable forest. The whole party looked at each other in silent despair : famine and certain death awaited them if they remained where they were, and yet, whither to turn they knew not. At last one of the crew observed a few camels feeding at a distance, and they resolved to approach them, in hopes that they might possibly lead to some tents. But what were their consternation and surprise, when they heard an alarm suddenly given by some children, whom they had not observed watching goats, and 'in an instant they found themselves surrounded by Arabs. The polished steel of their weapons reflecting the rays of the rising sun-beams, the ferocity of their appearance, and their frightful shrieks and gesticulations, struck terror into the little band. Unarmed and defenceless, they could only await the approach of their enemies, and they were instantly taken prisoners, stripped, plundered, and conveyed to a

miserable hut covered with moss, at a distance of a league from the shore. But this was only the beginning of the miseries which the wretched Fellows and his associates had to endure.

Women, who, in every other country, are universally celebrated for their compassion and tenderness, in this inhospitable region, seemed to feel pleasure in adding to their sufferings. Under the pretence, as they said, of drying their eyelids, they threw sand into their eyes, they spit in their faces, threw stones at them, and suffered their children to follow their example.

At the miserable hut I have before described, they found a young Frenchman, who, like Fellows, had been taken captive. He informed the company, that the Great Desert, or Sahara, as it was called, was inhabited by different tribes of Arabs, and that the party to which they belonged, were called the Labdesseba Arabs: that they had already sent forward one of their people, in order to erect small pyramids of stone, to direct their course, and preserve them from falling in with any of the hostile tribes by whom they were surrounded; and that they intended to set out for the interior in a few days. This intelligence plunged the whole party into distress. The idea of traversing the desert was dreadful to them, but com-

plaint and remonstrance were alike unavailing ; and, on the third morning, the tents were removed and placed upon the backs of the camels, and they set out on their dreary way.

After having passed by some very high mountains, covered with small greyish pebbles, as sharp as flints, and descended into a sandy plain, overspread with thorns and thistles, the feet of Fellows were so excoriated, that they bled profusely at every step, and he was unable to walk farther. The Arabs, therefore, placed him upon one of the camels ; but this change of situation only produced a change of suffering, for the bristly hair and hard trot of the animal, occasioned exquisite pain.

And here I cannot help delaying the course of my narrative, just to give my young readers a description of this indefatigable, patient, and useful creature ; part of which information Fellows received from his companion in affliction, the Frenchman, and the other part he gained by actual observation.

In those extensive deserts, where the earth is every where dry and sandy, where there are neither birds nor beasts, insects nor vegetables, and where nothing is to be seen but hills of sand, the camel travels posting forward, without requiring either drink or pasture, and often endures a total

want of sustenance, for six or seven days successively. It has small hoofs, and its feet, which are flat, are divided above, though not quite through ; and are particularly adapted for travelling on sand, but utterly unfit for moist or marshy places.

The camel being remarkably docile, is easily instructed in the methods of taking and supporting its burden. Its legs are bent under its body a few days after it is produced, and in this manner it is loaded and taught to rise ; the burden being every day increased by insensible degrees, till the animal is capable of supporting a weight equal to its strength. The same care is taken to render it patient of hunger and thirst : while other animals receive their food at stated times, the camel is restrained for several days together, and these intervals of famine are increased, in proportion as the creature seems capable of supporting them. By this mode of education, it lives five or six days without food or water ; and, indeed, its stomach is admirably fitted by nature for long abstinence, for, besides the four stomachs which all animals chewing the cud possess, the camel has a fifth, which serves as a reservoir to contain a greater quantity of water than the animal has immediate occasion for ; where it remains without either being corrupted or adulterated by the other aliments. When

the camel finds itself pressed with thirst, it finds an easy resource for quenching it ; and throws up a quantity of this water, by a simple contraction of the muscles, into the other stomachs, which serves to macerate its dry food. In this manner, as it drinks but seldom, it takes in a large quantity at a time ; and travellers, parched with thirst, have often despatched this useful animal for the sake of the fluid it was expected to contain.

In the long journeys through the desert, as well as in other parts of Arabia, merchants and travellers unite themselves into a body, furnished with camels, to secure themselves from the insults of robbers, who infest the countries through which they are to pass. This assemblage is called a caravan, in which the number of itinerants sometimes amounts to upwards of ten thousand, and that of camels to a still greater number. Each of these animals is loaded according to its strength ; and so sensible is the camel of its own ability, that, if overburdened it remains on its belly, and refuses to rise till its load is apportioned to its powers. In general, a large camel is capable of carrying a thousand weight, and sometimes twelve hundred, while the dromedary is sufficiently loaded with six or seven. During these trading journeys, they travel but slowly, and their stages, which are gene-

rally regulated, amount to about thirty or thirty-five miles a day.

Each evening, when they arrive at the place of their destination, which is usually some spot of verdure, where water and shrubs abound, the camels are permitted to feed at large; and on such occasions, they eat as much in one hour as is fully sufficient to support them the succeeding twenty-four. They prefer the coarsest weeds to the softest pastures: the thistle, the nettle, the cassia, and other prickly vegetables, are their favourite food; but as all natural supplies of provisions are accidental during these expeditions, their drivers take care to supply them with a kind of paste composition, which serves as a permanent nourishment.

It is somewhat extraordinary, that the camels, when they arrive in the vicinity of a spring, or pool of water, discover it by its smell, at the distance of more than a mile. Thirst then excites them to redouble their pace; and when arrived, they drink as much as serves them the rest of their journey, even should it continue some weeks, which is not unfrequently the case.

To the Arabs, the camel is invaluable. Its milk constitutes a part of their support; they feed on its flesh; they clothe themselves with its hair, which falls off every spring; of the urine, sal ammoniac

is made ; and the dung supplies them with fire for culinary purposes.' Besides which, in case of pursuit from the enemy, it accelerates their flight, being sometimes known to travel upwards of a hundred miles in a single day. It is not, therefore, wonderful, that they consider it an inestimable gift from Heaven, and deem it almost sacred.

Whilst Fellows was amongst this wandering tribe, who, as the descendants of Ishmael, have literally fulfilled the prophecy of Scripture, that their "hand should be against every man, and every man's hand against them," he had an opportunity of observing the method the Arabs take, at once to deceive and pacify this animal, when in a state of anger.

One of the tribe having, by an act of oppression and cruelty, excited the rage of his camel, the beast became furious ; and his driver would, in all probability have fallen a sacrifice to his vengeance, had he not hastily snatched off his upper garments, and thrown them in the place near which he knew it would pass ; having first disposed them in such a manner, as to appear to cover a man sleeping there.

The camel instantly recognised the clothes, seized them in his teeth, shook them with violence, and trampled on them in a rage. His anger then

being appeased, he left them ; and the owner resumed them without fear, loaded him, and guided him as before.

Another time, the calmness of one of these noble creatures being exhausted by the impatience of his rider, he stopped short, turned round his long neck to bite him, and uttered cries of rage.

In this situation, the man dared not alight, as he would infallibly have been torn to pieces ; neither did he venture to strike the beast, as that would have increased his fury. His only resource was to sit still, and for a considerable time attempt to soothe him, by patting him with the hand, and by using every little endearment to which the animal was accustomed. At length, to his great joy, he succeeded, and the camel resumed, of his own accord, his pace and his road.

But to return to Fellows and his companions. They had eaten but little since they had been taken prisoners, and every feeling of hunger, for a time, subsided into sensations of disgust, when they saw the Arabs take some barley-meal, and dilute it with sea-water, which they had mixed with pitch, and kept in goats' skins, to preserve it from putrefaction ; and then kneading together the whole with their hands, they threw it into a vessel, in which they placed some heated stones,

and from which, in this raw state, they continually took and ate it.

It is true that they did not offer any of this delicacy to their wretched prisoners, who were allowed to fast till they had killed a goat ; when, after having devoured the raw fat, they roasted the remainder in heated sand, ate the flesh, knawed the bones, and actually scraped them with their nails, and then threw the fragments to their captives, ironically desiring them to eat quickly, and reload the camels directly.

The repast finished, they resumed their route eastward. In the vast plain that they now crossed, not a plant, not a bird, nor an insect was to be seen. Even the wild beasts seemed to shun this dreary desert, whilst the melancholy stillness that reigned around, was only broken by the cries of the drivers to their camels, or the sighs and occasional groans of the unhappy captives.

Round, flat stones, white as snow, reflecting the intolerable rays of the sun, and occasioning to the feet, that continually came in contact with them, the sensation of being pricked by sparks of fire, were profusely scattered amongst the almost scorching sand of this desolate spot. The dull, hollow sound of the earth, and the red vapour that filled the atmosphere, gave an idea of travel-

ling in a country filled with flaming volcanoes ; whilst, if ever a gentle breeze arose, it imparted a sensation of inexpressible languor, chapped the lips, and produced upon the skin small, smarting pimples.

After quitting this dreary region, they entered upon another plain, where the sand, which was of a reddish colour, was thrown up in furrows by the wind ; and I cannot describe the pleasure Fellows experienced, as he gazed upon a few sweet-scented plants, which grew on the tops of these ridges, but which, however, were speedily devoured by the camels. They next entered into a valley surrounded by mountains, and, by the increased speed of the camels, they were certain that water was near ; yet great as this treasure was generally considered, the noxious smell that it cast around, was truly disagreeable to the captives, though the sight of the green moss that covered it was refreshment to eyes wearied and weakened by gazing so long upon heated sand.

At length, however, there seemed some hope of a respite to the sufferings of the prisoners, as they drew in sight of the tents of the Labdesseba horde, to which these Arabs belonged ; and Fellows remarked to the Frenchman, the almost pastoral appearance that the scene wore. The nu-

merous flocks scattered down the sides of the hills, and the tents of the people pitched amongst the thick, bushy trees, gave an air of simple happiness, that drew tears into the eyes of the captives. But these ideas were soon undeceived, as they approached nearer, and perceived that what appeared at a distance like beautiful green foliage, was in fact nothing but old gummy stumps, almost devoid of branches, and so surrounded with thorns, as to render their shade inaccessible.

The Arabs were received with loud cries of joy, and even with the utmost servility, by the women, who, nevertheless, not only poured down upon the Christians every opprobrious epithet, but mingled with them acts of unwarranted cruelty. The hardships they were now doomed to undergo, even exceeded those they had already passed through.

The milk of the goats, camels, and sheep, being diminished, on account of the heat of the weather, the captives were obliged to subsist on snails and wild herbs. They slept behind a bush, out of doors; and when the rain fell, the least pressure making the water spring up, their condition was deplorable.

The heat continuing in the meanwhile to increase, and being succeeded by a protracted drought, even the native Arabs were reduced to

such extremities, as to be obliged to kill their camels and goats, to obtain the water in their stomachs, which was of a greenish colour, and very disagreeable. In this dreadful juncture, several of the little party perished ; and it was resolved by the horde to whom Fellows belonged, to go in search of new habitations ; and accordingly, late in the following afternoon, they began their expeditions towards Morocco.

The stillness, like the silence of night, that reigned around ; the faint remains of a breeze, still glowing with the fervour of the meridian sun, but sinking with his orb ; the immense waste, covered with dark grey sand, resembling the ashes of a furnace, and terminated only by a bare horizon of black rocky hills ; and above, the vast canopy of heaven, across whose pale atmosphere no other object was seen but the reddish disk of the sun dipt in the horizon, were circumstances which conspired to impress melancholy on the mind of William, and his companion in misfortune, the Frenchman, and forcibly reminded them of their former journey through another district of this interminable desert.

The very flints were calcined, and looked like a blacksmith's charcoal.

Proceeding onwards, their attention was attract-

ed to a heap of whitish earth, covered with trunks of trees, thrown together in confusion, with their roots torn up. The captives now began to entertain some hopes that they were about to enter into a more verdant neighbourhood ; but on going closer to them, it was discovered that their bark was entirely peeled, and their branches, brittle as glass, were twisted together like cords ; whilst the wood was yellowish, like the wood of licorice, and the hearts of the trees filled with a powder very hard to the touch, though producing neither smell nor taste.

At a little distance from them, piled above each other, they could plainly discern an immense range of very high mountains, from whence enormous blocks seemed to have detached themselves, and in their fall to have been shattered to pieces ; whilst these large masses, over which the other rocks hung suspended, formed immense caverns, and covered the valleys.

Uncertain as was the unfortunate Fellows, whether he should ever regain his freedom, he yet determined to avail himself of every opportunity of information that these arid plains presented ; and his attention was soon attracted by the different appearance that two fountains presented, which were issuing out at a little distance from

him. One drew along with it a black, slimy matter, of a sulphureous smell ; whilst the other, which was only separated from it by a narrow isthmus of sand, flowed clearer than crystal. On entering into a valley, which appeared at first sight to be surrounded with mountains, and in which detached pieces of rock were heaped together in promiscuous confusion, he was agreeably surprised to find a variety of scenery, at once unexpected, and different from that which occurred so continually in the dreary route. The ground was no longer parched and arid, but, as if it had once been watered by gentle rivulets, it became moist, and presented a variety of furrows, covered with beds of pebbles, silvered over with a nitrous kind of ice ; whilst the rocks which enclosed the furrows, being similarly encrusted, gave them the appearance of being intersected with cascades. Leaves also, somewhat like those of the laurel, sprouted from thick reddish roots and branches, and creeping along the different crevices, relieved and refreshed the wearied eye.

Every step, as they advanced, wore a different aspect. Towering above each other, rose pyramids of great stones, white as alabaster ; and behind them waved lofty date-trees, whose trunks were warped even to the top, intermingled with the

undivided, unvaried perennial trunk of the palm, crowned on its head with its evergreen bunch of leaves, and, in some instances, rich in abundance of large fruit.

In other directions, the roots of these trees, that hung down the rocks, were glutinous, their bark breaking off at the slightest touch ; whilst the noble stems of many of them, extended on the sand, stripped of their bark, crumbling to the hand, and presenting, underneath the outer coat, filaments covered with a saltish powder, clear as crystal, gave proofs that the extent of vegetation was yet confined to a small spot.

But the attention of William was now called away to some exceedingly high mountains, covered with stones of every variety of colour : rose, violet, citron, and green, were mingled together in profusion ; and many a sigh escaped his bosom, as he remembered how, in happier days, he had amused himself in watching his little sister Emma, wandering along the sea-shore, and picking up pebbles of fanciful shape or imagined beauty.

Forests now, at a distance, rose upon their view ; and as they drew nearer to Morocco, they were at once surprised and interested, in seeing the trunks of trees descending from the centre of the rocks, and apparently hanging down like fruits ; whilst

the roebucks sprung one after the other, over the precipitous rocks, or across the large branches that waved in the air.

The Arabs informed Fellows, that there was but one tree in the forest, with a leaf resembling the common parsley, that was ever injured by the lightning.

The whole party now turned a little out of the road, to visit the tribe of Arabs called Telkoennes, who inhabit this part of Arabia, and whose habitations, hid amongst mountains of sand, are alone accessible to those who are acquainted with the passes of the desert. The enormous serpents that swarm in this part, render the situation, independently of its other peculiarities, extremely disagreeable.

Here they remained for the night. The camels were placed in a circle, with their heads outwards; their furniture, and the little lading they had with them, was next arranged in exact order; and within the centre lay the whole party. In this manner, indeed, the night was always passed; though Fellows and the Frenchman frequently had their sleep interrupted by the sporting of numbers of spotted lizards over them, which, though perfectly harmless, were, to say the least, very troublesome.

I have forgotten to mention the dews, which generally fall during the night season, and which, early in the morning, seem to precede the traveller at a certain distance. Through this medium, objects are so exceedingly magnified, that the captives once mistook some shrubs for forest trees ; and our whole party were so far deceived by a group of ostriches, as to imagine them a drove of camels, and put themselves in a posture of defence.

At last they reached Guadnum, the resort of the most daring of the Arabian tribes, and where the inhabitants of the desert come to exchange camels, peltry, and gum, for woollen stuffs, (half white and half crimson,) combs, mirrors, tobacco, gunpowder, wheat, &c. This trade is carried on by the Jews. As for the inhabitants, they live in a state of mutual distrust, having their houses and persons guarded by large dogs. Here Fellows and the Frenchman were sold to a chief of the Ouadelim tribe, and again they returned with them into the desert.

The life of these people, they found, was very predatory ; and they changed their habitations whenever pasture and water was becoming scarce. Tall, stout, and vigorous, their bristled hair, their long nails, which they often make use of in com-

bats, and which resemble claws, together with their hanging ears, and unshaved beards, gave them an appearance of disgusting ferocity ; and the two European captives could not help smiling at the various ideas of beauty, which are to be found in every different nation, when they saw a celebrated Arabian *belle* issue from the tents.

She had long, projecting teeth, limbs of the longest size, and a body extremely thick. She was accompanied by another female, half of whose face was daubed with a black preparation, in consequence of having given birth to a daughter. Had it been her happiness to have presented to the tribe a son, the whole face would have been thus disfigured. Her joy for a girl is celebrated in this way for twenty days, whilst that for a boy is extended to double the time.

Fellows was struck with the extreme ignorance of this people, accompanied with their most positive belief that they were superior to any other nation in the world. They called the stars "the children of the moon," and believed that the sun rose only for them. They lodged together in families, in tents covered with a thick cloth of camel's hair, which the women spun and wove, upon a loom so small, that they worked sitting on the ground.

Their furniture was as poor as their habitations, It generally consisted of two large leather sacks, containing old pieces of iron and old clothes ; an osier matting, which served for a bed ; two large stones for grinding barley, a smaller one for driving the pins of their tents, a few goats' skins to hold milk and water, some wooden dishes, and the pack-saddles for their camels.

As the horde remained for some time in this part, they thought it necessary to cultivate the spots which the rain had moistened ; and for this purpose, they carelessly sprinkled some seed over them. A plentiful crop was quickly produced ; but as they were in a hurry to depart, they did not suffer it to attain to maturity, but cut it down, and roasted it over hot cinders.

About this period, intelligence reached the tribes that a caravan, richly loaded, was about to pass at some little distance from us, and the whole party immediately put themselves in motion. They continued to wander about for some time to little purpose, and began to apprehend that the intelligence was false. The chief, therefore, to whom the Europeans belonged, proposed to journey towards Morocco, in the hopes that some other prize might be obtained, even if disappointed in this. The plan was agreed upon, and a succes-

sion of the same incidents took place that I have already described.

After a time, they fell in by accident with a troop of Mongeart Arabians, a tribe that inhabit that extent of coast which reaches from Cape Bojador to Cape Blanco. As some jealousy had subsisted for a long while, between the chief to whom they belonged and the opposite party, a battle instantly ensued; and during the combat, which was extremely fierce, Fellows and the Frenchman, who were guarding the tents, were taken prisoners, and the whole of their former tyrants routed.

Each party, after the battle was ended, made graves for the slain; and the chief of the Ouadelim horde having fallen, his age was denoted by the space of ground that the grave occupied.

As the Mongearts were returning to their own country, and as they were still tracking the desert, there occurred but little that was new to Fellows or Le Simeon, except that they encountered a more continual succession of sand-showers than they had before experienced. The wind being rather high, the flying particles, drifted with the gale, rose at times into high mountains, and again disappeared as the breeze shifted. In this situation, whenever it reached their tents, the Arabs

loaded their camels, turned their backs to the gale, and hasted away, as the only precaution which could be taken against being buried alive.

Their food, for the first few days, was extremely disgusting; consisting only of milk mixed with camels' urine, and a little barley meal mixed with brackish water, when it could be procured.

From the rapidity with which the party travelled, the feet of Fellows and the Frenchman were again dreadfully excoriated; which the Arabs perceiving, they scraped the soles with their daggers, and then plastered them over with tar and sand, which enabled them to walk without any farther difficulty.

The humanity of these people far exceeded that of the other tribe. Having passed some fertile spots, on which grew a large quantity of truffles, they generously abstained from eating them themselves, and gave them to their prisoners.

Arrived at the horde, the principal employment of the captives was making butter, by shaking the milk in a goat's skin, and in collecting dry bushes for fuel. Whilst amongst the Mongearts, Fellows and the Frenchman were often amused with the novel customs they witnessed. For instance, when they visited each other, as they often did, the honour consisted in permitting the female

guest to perform all the work of the tent. She therefore assumed the management of everything; dressed the victuals, churned the butter, and kept herself employed, while her friend amused her with an account of the affairs of the family or tribe. The heartiness of the welcome being measured by the extent of the work submitted to the guest, she generally prepared double the quantity of food necessary; so that the host was obliged to invite his neighbours to partake of the repast, at which the visitor presided; nor would she allow any body about her to remain dissatisfied.

The Mongearts, indeed, seem to invert both the laws of nature and custom. The practice of beating a wife, to prove the husband's affection, is universally followed: and the lady considers herself despised, where reproaches only are lavished upon her. Hence it often happens that women are dreadfully beaten upon the slightest occasion; and yet they profess to prefer it to those complaints the husband would lay before their parents. They always waited upon the men at meals, and were never permitted to take any thing till the whole family, including the slaves, were served.

One thing I must be permitted to say in favour of this singular tribe. They were uniformly humane to poor William and his friend; and the

women especially took the greatest care to assist them in mounting the camels.

The rites of hospitality amongst this tribe were universally practised. If a stranger appeared before the tent, the first person who perceived him, pointed out the tent to which he was to go; and if the master was not at home, the slave or mistress advanced to meet him at least twenty paces distant, and presented him with a draught of water or milk for his refreshment. His camels were then unloaded, his effects ranged round him; a mat, of which the owner often deprived himself, was given him, with whatever else they could offer him, or seemed necessary to him. His arms were taken from him, for two reasons, my master apprehended: first, that they might not be injured by the dews; and secondly, that they might be out of the reach of the stranger.

Even an enemy can claim the rites of hospitality: and if he once reach the inside of the tent, and demand it, no previous provocation can shut him out from its privileges. But as the chief's tent is usually selected, and as he is by no means richer than the rest of the horde, he could not support the expense, were it not for the contributions that are made to him by the rest of his tribe.

Their religion is Mohammedan; and if a priest

happened to be present, which was often the case, as they travel about to instruct the children, then, at the appointed time, all the Arabs assembled at the hour of prayer, placed themselves in a line, and turned to the east, and if water was wanting, which was frequently the case in the desert, they rubbed their face and arms with sand, whilst the priest recited the general prayer.

The education of the children was conducted on simple principles. A few Arabic characters traced on a board, inscribed also with a few maxims from the Koran, formed the ground of their learning. There is no force used to make them learn ; and it may perhaps serve as an incitement to the children of this highly favoured land, to hear, that the little Mongeart boys meet of their own accord at a place of instruction, which is to them a place of recreation. There they assist in teaching each other ; and those lads who are esteemed the cleverest, are made priests, treated with great respect by their countrymen, and have no need of cattle ; since subsistence is offered them every where, and by all the tribe.

Before I finish the account of the Arabs of the desert, I must say generally of them all, that the prisoners were often struck with their sobriety, and that the vice of drunkenness is almost un-

known amongst them. They are also affectionately attached to their children ; and to behold this fierce and independent people amusing themselves with throwing reeds in imitation of their hardy exercises, and to witness the natural effusions of their parental love, was often extremely affecting to Fellows and Le Simeon. In this situation they were comparatively happy, and began to make some efforts to obtain their release, through the medium of some travelling Moors, to whom they made their situation known ; when they found that they were purchased by them for two barrels of meal, and two iron bars of about nine feet each, and were shortly after conveyed into the territory of the Monselemines.

This part of Biledulgerid, which borders on Morocco, is inhabited by a people who differ, both in their religion and customs, from the Moors of Barbary, and the Mongearts of the desert. They are, indeed, descended from the ancient Arabs, intermingled with fugitive Moors, from Morocco ; and their country, which, though possessed of different qualities, is for the most part fertile, stretches at the distance of several leagues, beyond Cape Non, to nearly a similar distance from St. Croix, or Agadeer.

I cannot describe the joy of poor William and

his friend, when they again found themselves in plains watered by a variety of streams, and abounding with dates, figs, almonds, and palm-trees.

Nor was their pleasure diminished in finding themselves almost immediately purchased again by an Arab of this territory, who at first employed them in drying the excellent grapes produced by the gardens, which were afterwards converted into brandy by the Jews. Their next occupation was that of tilling the ground; and for this purpose they accompanied the chief of the family to which they belonged, to the spot which he deemed most fit for cultivation. Here a kind of paddle was put into their hands, with which the surface was lightly turned up; and round which, when they had sprinkled the seed in the earth, they planted bushes, to preserve it from the depredations of the cattle of the wild Arabs, and also to mark the place.

Three months after this operation, the crop being ripe, it was cut about six inches from the ear, and formed into little bundles. During this period, they laboured from morning till night in bringing the corn before the tent, threshing, winnowing, and placing it in magazines.

Now, as I take it for granted that every child who reads these adventures, desires to be inform-

ed of the methods pursued by the nation that I have been describing, I shall enter into an account of these last-named magazines.

These storehouses are not, like the English barns, built erect of wood; but they are formed by making large holes in the earth, shaped like the frustrum of a cone. The inside of these holes is hardened by burning wood in them, before the half-winnowed corn is deposited there. When the whole of the corn is placed in the magazines, they are covered with planks placed close to each other; over which is placed a layer of earth, laid level with the soil, to prevent its being discovered by an enemy. Every one shares in the produce of this dépôt, in proportion to the number of workmen that he employed in the field. When they have finished the harvest, they set fire to the long stubble; and William heard that it was to be abandoned for two or three years.

As soon as the seed-time was over, the chief left the plains, and taking Fellows and the Frenchman to watch over the cattle, they wandered about in every direction, only having recourse to the magazine when they could not obtain resources elsewhere. Occasionally, the chief would take his captive into the towns, which were generally occupied by artizans and people of opulence. They

were always situated on the declivity of hills. The houses were of stone ; and they were built after the Moorish fashion, low, and covered with sloping terraces ; but one of the inhabitants told Le Simeon, who always contrived to make himself understood, that the heavy rains, which prevail for three months of the year, injure them so much, as mostly to render them unfit to live in, at the end of fifteen or twenty years.

Although the family of the chief, and indeed all those who reside in the country, eat only in the evening, the dwellers in the towns took their meals twice in the day ; namely, at ten in the morning, and at sun-set. They also slept upon mats, upon the floors of their apartments, and made use of linen ; but these luxuries were unknown in the country, where they slept upon terraces in the open air.

In these families, the hospitality that the Arabs (even including the fierce tribes of the desert) are celebrated for, was exercised in all its extent ; and many a traveller partook of the simple entertainment, without the slightest desire on the part of the chief for a recompense.

Among this people, they saw the beautiful Arabian steeds so much celebrated. They are treated with the greatest care, and so well trained, that

they not only know their masters, but are obedient to their voice, and will not permit a stranger to mount them.

Peace being at this time established between the Monselemine and the emperor of Morocco, Le Simeon contrived to forward a letter to some French merchants resident at Mogadore, who, touched at the distressing account they received, of the sufferings of himself and Fellows, employed an agent to purchase them, if possible, from the chief.

The Arabs consented, and to the unspeakable relief of the wretched captives, they were shortly afterward conducted to Morocco; when they obtained from the emperor permission to sail to France, by the way of Tangiers, which they accordingly embraced with joy, and arrived there safely, after an absence of three years.

CHAPTER IV.

FELLOWS remained but a few days in France. He was eager again to embrace his family ; and accordingly he left Calais for Dover by the first vessel. The pleasure of embracing those so near and dear to him, was shaded by the recollection of the causes that occasioned him to become a wanderer on the face of the earth ; whilst in the wan cheek, and sun-burnt and furrowed brow of the traveller, they could scarcely recognise the regular features and fine complexion of the once handsome Fellows. Their joy, however, at receiving him again, was unfeigned ; and in his sedate manner, and exact observance of truth, together with his bitter repentance for his past errors, they traced the dawn of that happier day which was about to shine upon him.

The father of Fellows had long since discharged the debt due to the merchant ; and his fears on that subject having subsided, it was agreed that he should henceforth reside at home, and take his place in the counting-house.

I was present when he called on Mackenzie, and I invited them both to spend a day with me

at my lodgings. From Fellows, I at that and at different periods obtained the relation of his adventures in the desert ; and I am convinced that you may rely on its truth, for many and serious proofs have subsequent years given of his veracity.

In the last of these social evenings that our *trio* spent together, I heard with regret, that, for a season at least, I was to be deprived of Edwards' society, it being his intention the next week, to leave England for Bombay, and sail from thence up the Persian Gulf ; partly on account of mercantile speculation, and partly from a desire for increased information respecting some parts of the country. We took an affectionate farewell ; and from the regular correspondence which Edward from that time entertained me with, I am able to compile the following particulars.

I shall not attempt to describe Edward's voyage to Bombay. It was attended with but little novelty, and no dangers, and would therefore not be worth while to occupy my time about it ; and even in quitting Bombay, I shall only tell you that Edward embarked on board of what is termed an Arab ship, being under the command of a European, but belonging to an Arab merchant : and I shall pass over all the little places he touched at, nor stop to describe any one, till he reached Mas-kat, situated on the eastern coast of Arabia Felix.

As I have already given my young readers such an ample account of that part of Arabia which contains the Great Desert it is but right that I should also afford them a short description of Arabia Felix, or, as it is often termed, the Happy.

Though less rocky and sandy than either of the other divisions of this country, it is yet sufficiently barren in most parts. Some valleys, however, between the mountains, and a few of the plains, which are so situated as to be well supplied with water, are pleasant and fruitful; and here corn, pulse, fruits, vegetables, and flowers, are produced in great abundance, excellence, and beauty, and reward the toil of the industrious husbandman, who is obliged either to bring a sufficient quantity of water in skins from distant springs; or, if he is happy enough to possess a deep well on his own domain, distributes the supply with an even and cautious hand, in little channels, which are conducted through gardens and fields in such a way, as to dispose of every drop to advantage, in the refreshment of the parched earth and its drooping productions.

Besides the fruits common in the east, such as peaches, apricots, dates, and grapes, lemons and oranges arrive at great perfection; and this country also supplies Europe with a great variety of



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drugs, such as myrrh, frankincense, balms, manna, aloes, and gum olibanum. But the most valuable production of Arabia is coffee, which grows in great abundance on the lower parts of the mountains, and in the skirts of the plains, and produces that sort of berry, which is usually imported into Europe under the denomination of Turkey coffee.

The shrub which bears the berry, so highly esteemed by the Turks and other Asiatics, seldom rises above the height of ten feet, and does not often exceed seven or eight. Both the small branches and the leaves are placed in pairs opposite to each other : the latter, which are nearly four inches long, and two wide in the broadest part, generally grow at considerable distances from each other, sometimes an inch and a half or two inches. They are pointed, and, in figure and consistence, somewhat resemble the leaves of the bay-tree ; being perfectly smooth on the surface, though without being indented at the edges. The fruit depends from the branches by footstalks, and several bunches frequently hang close together. The bark of the tree is smooth, and of a greyish colour, and the wood white and solid. The coffee-shrub requires a constant supply of water, and does not continue in vigour above three or four years.

The natives dry the berries in the sun before they can get off the husk, which is afterwards separated by small mills; and even of this husk the Arabs make a small coffee, which they prefer, in the hot season, to the liquor made by the berry itself.

I have spoken in other places of the date, which is one of the articles of commerce in this country. The tree on which this fruit is produced, is very tall, but slender, having, like other palms, no branches but at the top: the fruit grows in clusters of thirty or forty pounds' weight. The pulp in which the stone is contained, is a clammy substance, remarkably sweet, and, when ripe, being laid in heaps, they become candied, or preserved, without any other sugar. The tree does not bear till it is fifteen years old, and it is then said to continue fruitful till it is upwards of a hundred.

In this place, (Maskat,) my young friend was amused and astonished to find inhabitants of so many different nations. Here was to be seen, in the crowded bazaar, the Turk, in his doliman or vest reaching down to his heels, of silk, satin, or stuff, according to the quality and circumstances of the wearer; close-bodied, like a cassock, and tied round the waist with a sash, in which was stuck one or two daggers, with their hilts and scabbards,

ornamented with silver and gold, or shining with precious stones, where the owner was a man of distinction. The purse, or loose money, and the boxes containing the tobacco, of which they make frequent use, were also to be seen in this sash. Nor was this rich dress completed without a loose gown or coat, stockings of woollen cloth, with the feet of red or yellow leather, and shoes of the same material; with a crimson velvet cap, round which was wound many yards of silk or muslin, in the form of a turban; whilst they usually carried in their mouths the pipe of rose or cherry-wood stems, which the more affluent decorated with silver.

In another part of the same bazaar, Mackenzie's attention was attracted by the Hindoos, in loose, flowing garments of silk and muslin, confined round the waist so as to discover the shape of the upper part of the body, and falling in plaits or folds to the ancles; with sharp-pointed shoes, having their toes turned up; and their hair gathered into a roll, and confined beneath a small turban.

Here, too, the African, with his jetty skin, and his ornaments of copper and of brass, was seen mingling with that race, of whom, in the unerring words of scripture, it was predicted, that they should become a "by-word and a reproach to all

nations." The sons of Israel, indeed, are too well known any where to need my delineation ; and I shall only say, that the keen, mercantile glance of this calculating race, contrasted finely with the wild, uncontrolled look of the Bedouin Arabs, with their blue cotton shirts, belted round their waists with a white sash, and their upper garment or vest of sheep skin, dressed with wool ; whilst round their heads was wound loosely a striped handkerchief surrounded by lashes of whip-cord. Arabs of different tribes were there : some with their black, luxuriant hair unconfined, others naked to the waist, and all furnished with weapons of different shapes and uses.

There is a slave-market here ; and Edward was deeply pained in seeing the indelicate and unfeeling manner in which these unhappy victims of avarice and tyranny were publicly exhibited.

Leaving Maskat, he sailed by Ormus, once a celebrated city of considerable opulence, but now a mouldering and wretched village. The habitations, indeed, of the Persians in this place, are truly mean and despicable, many of them being no better than huts, composed of the branches of trees, thatched with leaves.

Mackenzie next arrived at Busheer one of the principal ports of Persia, and where much of the

merchandise of the surrounding countries is brought to be exported. Here, therefore, silks, rich carpets, fruits of various kinds preserved, rose-water of the finest scent, wine from Shiraz, wool, horses, and mules, were found in abundance ; and the place exhibited that busy air which marks invariably a mercantile scene. As Edward had here business that required his attention he remained in this place for some weeks, and hence had an opportunity of observing a little of the manners and customs. Calling one day at the house of a khan, or governor of a province, Edward was invited to smoke the calean, which is a method of passing the smoke in silver tubes, through a vessel of water, before it reaches the mouth, which renders the tobacco mild and cool, and is attended with a less disagreeable smell than the common method. Coffee in china cups, placed in silver ones, was then handed round. It was taken without milk or sugar, and was followed by acid conserves and rose-water syrup, till the calean was again resumed. Soup or broth was generally served up at the first course, and the meal finished with a pilau, which is composed of mutton or fowls, stewed with rice, and a strong gravy : with the pilau a dish of sweet jelly comes to the table, which is sometimes eaten with it ; and last-

ly, each person takes a single spoonful of a thin kind of syrup, in which are slices of various dried fruits.

Edward now finding he could not finish the business which first brought him here, and that he was obliged to wait for letters from England, resolved to embrace the present opportunity, and accordingly set sail again for Bassora. In his passage he passed by the island of Bahreen, famous for its pearl fishery. The method of procuring these oriental ornaments, is by means of weights fastened to the feet of fishers, so as to be easily quitted when it is necessary for them to regain the surface. Baskets are also sunk in the same manner by weights, which the divers throw out, and proceed to fill the basket with oysters as long as they can remain under water. When they find their situation begins to be disagreeable, they make signals, and are assisted by those above to rise, where they take refreshments, whilst other fishers go to the bottom, and help to complete the cargo. When the baskets are loaded, by the alternate efforts of the several sets of divers, they are drawn up, and the shells opened. Of the pearls they are found to contain, those above ten grains are claimed for the sovereign, and those under that weight are the property of the adventurers.

My friend found Bassora to be a city of considerable extent, the walls being twelve miles in circumference: however, the whole enclosure is not occupied by buildings, there being many gardens and groves of date-trees within the walls. It is populous and flourishing, yet the houses are low, and the public buildings by no means magnificent. The eastern part of Bassora lies by the river, from whence a canal is cut, which extends quite through the city, and divides it into two parts; a bridge of boats over the canal forming the only communication between them. Vessels of great burden come up to the end of the canal, and smaller ones load and unload in the canal itself.

There is a strong fort at the mouth of the Euphrates, from which Bassora is about forty-five miles distant. The East India Company has a factory here, and merchants of several countries are to be found in this place, uniting in a commerce which extends itself over the eastern world. It has also a college for youth; and it is the residence not only of a bashaw, who has a thousand janissaries under his command, but also of an Arabian prince, who draws his revenues from extensive plantations of palm-trees, and from a traffic in camels and horses, the latter of which are so highly esteemed, as to obtain very considerable prices.

Mackenzie having heard that a gentleman of very considerable abilities and information was about to visit Bagdad, and meant, in his course, to pass through some parts of the desert, requested leave to accompany him. The traveller politely agreed; and having robed himself in an Arab dress, Edward was presently joined by his guide, equipped in trowsers reaching to his arms, and supported by a broad buff belt, in which were stuck pistols, a carbine, daggers, and a sword, besides ramrods, cartridges, and pouches.

His friend arrived immediately afterward, and they took their places in a boat just large enough to hold two people, at their length, in the centre; whilst the head and stern were occupied by the guide and boatman, whose oars kept time to a melancholy song, that was chanted by the former, as they rowed down the Chat Ul Arab.

Continuing their voyage without any remarkable incident, they at length entered the majestic sweep of waters that marks the junction of the mighty rivers of the Tigris and the Euphrates, which, uniting their streams at this point, finally fall into the gulf by Bassora. It was impossible not to be impressed with this sublime sight; but Mackenzie and his friend found it difficult to imagine, with some travellers, that Korna, situa-

ted in the inland gulf which is formed by the streams, ornamented with a few trees and slightly cultivated, could ever have been the fertile and beautiful scite of the garden of Eden.

I shall pass over the various places that they passed by ; few of which were of any consequence, and at still fewer Edward and his friend ventured to land, as they were surrounded by lawless tribes of the desert, with whose manners and habits you are already, in some degree, acquainted. It is true, that the Arabs of the interior are more ferocious and less civilized than those on the banks of the Euphratès, near whom they now were ; and I shall therefore describe a visit which they paid to one of the scheiks or chiefs, of this singular people, to whom they had despatches to deliver.

Mackenzie and his friend having sent forward an Arab servant, whom they had lately hired, to inform the scheik of their arrival, they were shortly afterwards shown to his tent, where he received them sitting on carpets, surrounded by his principal people. Upon the plain around was scattered what might be called a camp : it was of no particular form, but the tents were arranged in length as the plain opened, as near as convenient to the stream by which it was watered, that of the chief

being pitched as near as possible in the centre of the encampment. Around it were placed the camels, and the favourite horses were picketted near.

Edward, (for so I like to call him) having delivered his letters, was requested to sit down ; and after having been assured of safety and protection, he was presented with some coffee and a pipe. Dinner was then announced, and Mackenzie was pressed to partake of it. It consisted of pilaus and other Asiatic dishes ; coarse, black rice ; and the flesh of two young camels, dressed in various ways, some with rice, and some without ; whilst the bones were served in a soup, which was boiled from them.

It was the first time that my young friend had ever been present at such a feast ; and if his European notions were not at first completely conquered, his feelings of disgust rose still higher, when he observed the chief bury his hand in the pilau, part of which he immediately conveyed to his mouth ; and as there were neither knives nor forks, the meat in the other dishes was literally torn and gnawed to pieces. Edward was, however, obliged to follow the example, lest he should give offence, though it was with difficulty that he overcame his repugnance ; and he took the first

opportunity that presented, of bidding adieu to his truly hospitable but uncouth host.

As it is not my intention to lead you again into the desert, I shall not stop to detail to you the various little occurrences that took place, in a route that Mackenzie pursued amongst them for some weeks, and shall only tell you, that travelling with an escort is a very different thing from being a captive amongst these wandering tribes ; and I shall therefore beg you to hasten with me to a place of deep interest, which they turned aside to contemplate, on their road to Bagdad : I mean, the spot where, it is supposed, once stood the mighty city of Babylon.

Whoever was the founder of this magnificent city, whether Semiramis or Belus, certain it is, that under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar it arrived at the zenith of grandeur and glory. The walls of Babylon are described as having been sixty miles in circumference, eighty-seven feet in thickness, and three hundred and fifty in height. The city is said to have been a square, each side of which was fifteen miles in length. The walls were built of bricks, cemented with bitumen, the natural produce of this country, and which in time grew so hard, as to be inseparable from the materials which it joined together ; and the earth

for making the bricks which built these stupendous walls, having been all taken out of a ditch which was intended to surround them, this latter was afterwards faced with the same bricks, and being filled with water, added to the strength and beauty of this proud city.

A hundred gates of solid brass formed so many entrances into Babylon, being placed at equal distances, twenty-five on each side; from each gate a street ran in a straight line to the opposite; and the houses in each street were regular and magnificent. Between every two gates were three towers; four at each angle, and three between each of the angles and the adjacent gate. From north to south, through the centre of the city, ran the river Euphrates, over which, in the middle of the city, was a bridge of great breadth and height; and at each end of the bridge was a palace: that on the east was called the old palace, and occupied four of the squares, into six hundred and seventy six of which the city was divided, by the streets cutting each other at right angles. The new palace at the west end of the bridge filled a space equal to nine of those squares: the former of these buildings was four miles in circumference, and the latter eight; and this palace was also strongly fortified, having three walls

within each other. The hanging gardens of the new palace have been much celebrated as great curiosities: they are said to have been a number of terraces, supported by arches, and that the highest of them reached the summit of the city wall. Each of those terraces were four hundred feet in length, and of proportionable breadth: the ascent from one to the other was by steps or stairs ten feet wide. Water was conveyed, by means of engines, into an aqueduct, which filled a reservoir on the highest terrace, and was from thence distributed among the lower ones. Each of them was adorned with statues, and filled with most beautiful and odoriferous shrubs and flowers; and to prevent the overflowings of the Euphrates from being troublesome or injurious to the city, canals were made from it, before it reached Babylon, by which that part of it which flowed through the city could always be kept within bounds.

Of this once grand city, there now remain no traces, except those which have been discovered by the researches of modern travellers; and these consist of mounds of earth, formed by the decomposition of buildings,* channelled and furrowed with the weather, and strewed with pieces of brick,

* See an interesting paper on the present state of Babylon, by Mr. Rich.

bitumen, and pottery. A sepulchral urn of earthenware, containing some human bones which pulverized to the touch, as also a large colossal figure of a lion, supposed to be an idol, with a circular aperture in his mouth, in which a man might introduce his fist, together with the remains of what is imagined to be a palace, have been also dug up.

Edward had it not in his power to inspect these remains himself, but he derived from an intelligent gentleman much more information on this point, than his own unassisted efforts could have obtained. In viewing this mark of Divine wrath, Mackenzie was forcibly reminded of the truth of the Scripture declaration : " It shall not be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation ; but the wild beasts of the island shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces ; and I will also make it a possession for the bittern and pools of water ;" and he, and his friend the traveller, continued talking on the subject long after they had quitted its desolate scite.

The road was now straight, and many hours had not elapsed ere the little party came in sight of the lofty minarets of Bagdad, once the metropolis of the Saracen empire, pleasantly situated on a fine plain, on the eastern banks of the river Tigris.

This city was once extremely extensive and populous, adorned by superb palaces, and other magnificent buildings. Learning flourished within its walls, the inhabitants were civilized and courteous, and their language the purest Arabic. At present, it is extremely fallen both in point of grandeur, population, and elegance. The inhabitants consist of a mixture of Mahommedans, Christians, and Jews, the latter of whom are more numerous as visitors to the supposed tomb of Ezekiel, (one of the prophets,) in the neighbourhood of this city, than as residents. Few remains of the ancient public buildings are to be found ; and the natives are by no means distinguished by great learning or politeness : even the language has been corrupted, in the various changes of masters to which this place has been subjected. Yet still it is the most considerable place of trade in the Turkish empire, on the side of Persia ; being supplied with all the eastern commodities by way of Bassora. It receives also the annual caravans from Smyrna, Aleppo, and the western parts of the empire, by which means it is furnished with the produce of these countries. It is walled and fortified ; and the grand seignior receives a considerable tribute from the numerous passengers that pass through Bagdad, in the land journey to Mecca.

Edward found in this place five mosques, and twice as many caravanseras, or public inns ; and the market places, or bazaars, which are arched, are frequently refreshed with water, to keep them cool, which is necessary in a country, where, on account of the excessive heats, the markets are often obliged to be held at midnight, and the inhabitants are compelled to sleep on the terraces of the houses.

Here my young friend proposed staying to refresh himself for a time ; and, indeed, the intense heat which reigned at this season, incapacitated him from proceeding, whilst the hot winds, which blew from the east over the long tracts of burning and desert sands, rendered the climate, to a European constitution, at these periods, almost insufferable. For eight months, indeed, regularly, there is no rain, and this drought sometimes continues for the whole year, and even two for years together ; during which time, the inhabitants contrive to water their lands by means of cuts, or canals, from the rivers ; and by engines for conveying the water both to the high lands, and to places remote from the banks of them. Thus, by the exercise of industry and ingenuity, this country is rendered so fertile, that it repays the labourer's care with an increase of two hundred fold in most kinds of

grain. This country is destitute of grapes or olives; but the palm-trees supply wine. Nor are the canals from the rivers only subservient to the immediate purposes of cultivation : they serve to convey off that superfluity of water, which, pouring down from the mountains in the summer months, when the snow is melted by the sun, used to overflow the country, and to facilitate the communication between the distant parts of this widely-extended province. This distribution of water also enriches the pasture, and is productive of excellent animal food, as well as milk and butter, in great abundance.

Just as Edward was preparing to proceed farther up the country, he received despatches that conveyed intelligence of the necessity of his immediate return to Busheer; and, obeying the summons instantly, he bade adieu to his kind friend, the traveller, and prepared to take a final leave of a country in which he had found much to gratify his taste, and to excite his farther curiosity.

After a journey replete with but few incidents, the young traveller again reached Busheer in safety. He there found, that business of importance required his presence in Shiraz, the second city of the Persian empire, and the capital of the province of Fars or Pars.

I shall not attempt to lead you from place to place, on the route that Mackenzie pursued, but shall only present you with those principal features of his journey that most interested my friend.

Pitching his tent in the valley of Dustarjan, about two days' march from Shiraz, Edward was delighted to behold, on the banks of a crystal stream, the clover and the golden cup; whilst the verdure of the whole valley, and the pure temperature of the air, forcibly reminded him of one of the beautiful days in spring of his native country. Sounds of music now burst upon the traveller's ear, and, on looking around, he perceived it was a Persian bridegroom, proceeding onwards to the house of the bride's father, whither he had before sent a present, consisting of clothes, jewels, and other ornaments for her person. He was mounted on horseback, attended by his friends, and dressed in his best. He was of a middle stature, inclined to tall, but small boned. His complexion was of a bright olive, his eyes black and animated; and his hair, which was of the same colour, was close shaved, except on the temples, where one lock was left as an ornament. His beard reached to his temples: it was shaved off the cheeks, but otherwise, as he was a man of distinction, suffered to grow long. His cap, which

was dyed crimson, was faced with a Bucharian lamb-skin: it was ten or twelve inches high, and so fashioned as to rise into four corners at the top. His shirt, of chequered blue silk, was made open in the bosom, with straight sleeves without wrists. A waistcoat covered this vest, which was surmounted by a coat, the sleeves of which were close, and fastened with buttons and loops; and above all this was a loose coat, lined with sable, and reaching to his waist. His neck was quite bare; his trowsers were large and loose, and his woollen stockings and high-heeled shoes finished this singular but really rich attire. But what particularly attracted the attention of Mackenzie, were the housings of his horse, which were of an immense size, and embroidered with silver and gold: his saddle was similarly ornamented; and the handles of the knives, which were carried in the plaits of his sash, were also composed of the same metals.

Edward had not watched this group long, when he saw advancing to meet them another party, in which he clearly discerned a female, seated on a camel, veiled from head to foot. She, also, was accompanied by her relations, and attended by a train of servants, who conducted the slaves that were loaded with her clothes, jewels, and other baggage, which had been purchased with the price

paid for her on making the marriage contract, with an addition on the part of her own parents.

Both cavalcades having joined, they prepared to return to the house of the bridegroom, and passing again by the place where his tent was stationed, gave my friend an opportunity of observing the whole party. The lady, he was told by one of the crowd of humble dependents that followed, was a celebrated beauty. She had large, thick eyebrows, to improve which she had dyed them black ; and her hands and feet were tinged with an orange-coloured dye or pomatum. On her head she had a stiffened cap, in which was stuck a heron's feather ; and her hair which was braided in tresses, fell down her back to a great length : it was encircled by a small chain of gold, set with pearls : at one end of which was a thin plate of gold, on which was engraved a prayer in the Arabic language, whilst the other end was fastened to the hair above the temple ; and the plate hung down the cheek, just below the ear. She wore on this occasion a necklace of plain gold, enriched with precious stones, which hung down on her bosom ; and to this was suspended a small box of gold, filled with exquisite perfume. The other parts of her dress were like those of the gentleman, only more expensive ; and she also had on a similar pair of trowsers and shoes.

The bridal party were followed by numbers of persons, as they were both rich ; and, consequently, much of the good cheer provided for the entertainment of the guests on this felicitous occasion, would be presented to those who crowded about the door.

Edward turned away from the festive scene, to pursue the road to Shiraz ; and he could not help contrasting the situation of a Persian bridegroom, who had never before seen his lady, and whose union had been formed by the intervention of parents, with a view to connexion and property, with those happy marriages he had so often witnessed in his own dear native land.

After a rather fatiguing ride, augmented by the heat of the weather, on the second day after the last-mentioned incident he entered Shiraz, and took up his abode in a house in the suburbs.

As my friend rode up the avenue of trees leading from the gate to the house, and entered the court-yard and garden, filled with odoriferous flowers and flower-bearing shrubs, with the fountains of clear water sparkling in the sunbeams, and spreading coolness and refreshment around, he could not help acknowledging that, on this point at least, the Persians displayed good taste.

Entering his new habitation, Edward found in the centre a large room, in which a fountain was playing, and sprinkling on the tiled floor its gentle moisture. The house was low, and was surrounded by a piazza. On the roof was a terrace, where Mackenzie afterwards passed many of his evenings. There were two rooms at each extremity of the hall, one for retirement, the other for eating; and, as the mattress on which Edward slept was always rolled up, and taken away in the day, the parlours served for sleeping-rooms, and rendered a larger number of apartments unnecessary.

All the offices are situated at a little distance from the house, to which there is a covered passage from them. The kitchen-fire, which was generally of charcoal, was made in a hearth, erected, or rather sunk in the floor for that purpose, over which there was a round hole for the smoke to pass off.

Many days had not elapsed, ere my young friend went into Shiraz. He found the city nearly seven miles in circumference, but thinly inhabited, and thickly interspersed with gardens and groves of trees. It is situated in a pleasant valley, of twenty miles in length, and about one-third part as wide, which is fertilized by a rivulet passing

through it, that supplies the city with water. This stream is inconsiderable in summer, but swells in the spring; and sometimes becomes so rapid as to overthrow houses and buildings, and sweep away the corn and other productions of the earth. The palace, which has been occupied by some of the former soppis or kings, but now by a viceroy, is extremely magnificent; and the gardens belonging to it are said to excel those of Ispahan, both in size and beauty; being no less than two miles square, and enclosed by a wall fourteen feet in height. Nor are the gardens of such of the nobility as inhabit this city, inferior in elegance; being planted, for shade and ornament, with cypress-trees, which, for height, straightness, and regularity of growth, are unequalled; and for use, with fruit trees of a thousand different sorts: such as oranges, lemons, apricots, pears, cherries, and grapes; all equally delicious to the palate, and the latter producing wine of exquisite flavour, surpassing any other growth of the kingdom.

The fruit-trees either form walks, or are scattered irregularly over the garden; and the vines twine round other trees, from the branches of which the grapes hang in clusters of astonishing magnitude. Nor are these gardens less plentifully furnished with flowers, the variety, colours, and

colours of which are not rivalled by the choicest productions of Italy ; though they require here but little culture, and are, in a manner, disregarded by the gardeners, whose whole attention is engaged in managing the fruit-trees, and procuring them a proper supply of water, which, in this country, is indispensable.

The streets of Shiraz are in general narrow and dirty, except those which lie near the river, which are wider ; and yet they are furnished with canals and basins of water, neatly lined with freestone.

Mackenzie obtained an entrance into the college, which is erected for the education of youth ; and he found that the literature of the country, and all the liberal arts with which the Persians were acquainted, were taught here. One of the students was writing, and Edward was amused with seeing him roll the letter up, fasten it with a bit of paper dipped in gum-water, and seal it with a ring, generally worn for the purpose, containing the name of the owner, and a sentence from the Koran. Indeed, the paper of Persia being composed of silk and cotton rags, and in a manner glazed, by a smooth stone being passed over it, fixed in a machine calculated for the purpose, is too soft and easily torn to allow of being folded.

Nor was the manner of the youth's writing the least extraordinary part of the business. He was standing, holding his paper with his left hand, whilst, with his right, he transcribed with amazing rapidity and accuracy. He was a scribe by profession; an employment at once honourable and profitable, in a country where printing is not used, and where all their literary productions are in manuscript. In answer to Mackenzie's questions, he replied, that there were eight different kinds of hand writing amongst them, each of which is distinguished by a name: the one which he was then using being termed *nesky*, was esteemed the most, ~~from~~ being the type in which the Keran is usually written. In their ordinary writings, he added, they carried the lines from right to left, like those who copy Hebrew; but he exhibited to Edward his own superior abilities in penmanship, displayed in the variety of fantastic figures in which he had placed the sentences.

The pen he was using was made of a reed, which grows in one of the southern provinces of the kingdom; and he dipped both it and his seal in an ink, which was thick and glutinous, and composed of galls, burnt rice, and gum; which last rendered it not only shining, but lasting.

One morning, shortly after this, as my young

friend was passing through the street, he was alarmed by hearing loud cries and exclamations proceeding from a house, of which the outer door stood open. He entered, and found they arose from the relations and friends of a Perisian of rank, who had just expired. The women were addressing to the lifeless corpse the most pathetic exclamations; and they, with the men, were beating their breasts, rending their clothes, and tearing their hair. Fearful of intruding on the sorrow of the party, he immediately left the room, and was proceeding down the outer court, when he encountered a party of persons, who had been deputed by the magistrates to prepare the ~~corpse~~ ^{body} for interment; which was done by taking it to a pond set apart for the melancholy occasion, in the garden of people of rank, where it was stripped and washed, under the cover of a tent pitched for the purpose.

After having undergone this operation, the nose, mouth, &c. are stuffed with cotton, and the corpse is wrapped in a winding-sheet of silk or cotton, on which was written a few sentences from the Koran, relating to the mortality of the body and immortality of the soul.

As the deceased was a person of distinction, Edward was anxious to witness the funeral pro-

cession, which took place with much solemnity. The priests and officers of the mosque preceded the corpse with banners and ensigns; on one of which was the name of the prophet, whilst the others were decorated with ensigns; and one bore a hand, which was called the hand of Ali. The horses of the deceased were led before the body; whilst the domestics followed, bearing his turban and arms. The relations and friends followed, and the corpse was borne by the neighbours and acquaintances, who are always so anxious to perform this duty, that should they, even by accident, meet the funeral procession of one with whom they have been but slightly acquainted, they will, though on horseback and proceeding on a journey, instantly alight, and claim a share in this melancholy office.

The burial-places in Persia, are never in the mosque, but in an adjoining field, and no coffins are used. The head of the corpse was therefore uncovered when it arrived at the grave, and was placed with the face towards the city of Mecca; the other parts of the body were wrapped in a winding sheet, and the side of the grave next Mecca left hollow, from an opinion prevalent among Mahommedans, that after the body is interred, it is reanimated by the soul, and undergoes

a strict examination of angels, as to its past conduct, whose report is to determine its future destiny.

By the body, in the grave, was laid his turban, sword, bow, and quiver of arrows; and a monument was erected over it, bearing some passages in the Koran, in which the quick decay of human life was compared to the fading of a flower.

For the first ten days after the funeral, Edward observed the women and children of the deceased visit the grave, leaving by it sweetmeats, fruits, and other provisions for the angels, whom they imagine attend and guard the grave; and Edward mourned as much over the superstition which shrouded their minds, as he sympathized with them in the bitter lamentations and affectionate expostulations they repeated for forty days, on what they termed the premature departure of their friend.

During this period, although they wore no mourning, they designated their grief by a total inattention to their dress, in refusing to change their clothes, and in not shaving their beards. Widows generally mourn more than the time prescribed, and, though not prohibited, they seldom marry a second time.

During the young merchant's abode in Shiraz, he received an invitation from the master of one of the principal families to supper; and, as the

feast was attended with ceremonies peculiar to the country, I cannot but fancy that my young readers would derive some amusement from the recital.

Supper being brought in, a servant presented a bottle of water, and, with a napkin over his shoulder, went round the company, and poured water on each person's hands, to wash.

The room of entertainment was supplied with light by one large tallow candle, or lamp, which burnt in the court-yard, and a single wax-light, of large size, on the floor of the room, which was frequently snuffed with scissors into a small cup of water. A large salver, in the form of a tea-board, was set before each person, with a plate of pilau, and a small quantity of minced meat, mixed with fruit and spices. There were also plates of comfits served; and China basins filled with sherbets, both sweet and sour, and other waters; with cakes of wheat and rice flour, each of which was sprinkled with the seeds of poppies, and other seeds of the like nature. These cakes are made thin, that they may be easily broken; it being esteemed an abomination to cut any kind of food with a knife, after it has been dressed. When the several dishes were placed on the table, they all began without ceremony, and devoured their food with great expedition. Supper ended, warm water was

brought to wash with; which was the more necessary, as the Persians feed themselves with their fingers, and are not very delicate in their manner of eating, greasing their hands, and smearing their beards.

After the supper and washing were finished, the company entered into conversation; and Edward observed, that when the oldest man in the room spoke, though he appeared to be poor, and sat at the lower end of the room, every person regarded him with the greatest attention.

The most unpleasant part to my friend, in this supper, was the quantity of asafœtida that was mixed with some of the dishes. On inquiring from whence it was brought, he was informed that it grew principally amongst the mountains of this country, and was produced from a plant with branched leaves, like those of a peony, with a large full stem, and bearing seeds like those of the parsnip, or cow-parsley. The root of the plant, they added, when grown to a proper size and age, is bared of earth at the top, screened from the sun by the leaves that have been pulled off, after some days cut horizontally, and again carefully screened. A juice, liquid, and white like milk, then begins to rise from the root gradually, and is collected till the whole that the plant will yield is

obtained. On being exposed to the air, the juice becomes brown, and acquires a consistence; and it is afterwards exported into England, in large, irregular masses, where it is used for medicinal purposes.

I told you that Edward was pleased with the shrubs and odoriferous flowers that surrounded his house. They consisted of an infinite variety of roses of the most astonishing odour, (from the leaves of which were distilled sweet-scented water, which was exported to all parts of the globe,) mingled with gilliflowers, both red and yellow, which scented the air, and contrasted beautifully with the orange and jessamine trees, that had been transported from the provinces of Hircania and Mazenderan, where they flourish spontaneously; whilst anemones and ranunculuses, that paint the earth, and also grow wild in different parts of the empire, were here in luxuriant profusion. Nor were lilies, daffodils, violets, and pinks wanting in the neighbourhood of Mackenzie's abode; and often, as he gazed upon them, did they carry him back, in fancy, to that dear land, on whose green banks and cultivated parterres, he had so often stopped to admire and pluck them.

In the kitchen-gardens of Persia, Mackenzie

found most of the roots and salads of Europe ; and no less than twenty different sorts of melons, of which the people make their constant food. Those which were first ripe in the spring, were round and small, but those that ripened in the latter part of the season, were much the largest and best ; being exquisitely sweet, and weighing eight or ten pounds each. Persons of quality contrive, by preserving them underground till the season returns, to have them all the year round.

Amongst the cucumbers, which were also of various kinds, and much used by the common people, there was one sort in particular, which had scarcely any seeds, and which was eaten without paring or dressing.

Although the art of pruning and grafting trees is not carried to the perfection it is in England, still they have excellent apricots of many kinds ; and their peaches and nectarines weighed sixteen or eighteen ounces each. Of one particular kind of apricot, which is red within, Edward purchased a pot. They were dried in the sun, then boiled in water, which, thickened by the juice of the fruit, is converted into a perfect syrup, without the aid of sugar. Apples and pears, growing principally in the northern part of the country, he could rarely obtain ; but the deficiency was amply compensa-

ted by the oranges, quinces, prunes, and pomegranates, which he could always purchase in great plenty. Indeed, the Persians have such a variety of fine fruits, that whilst Edward was amongst them, he witnessed, at an entertainment given by one of the khans, fifty different sorts ; some of which, it is true, were brought nine hundred miles from the place of their growth.

Tired of remaining always at Shiraz, Mackenzie made several excursions into the neighbouring provinces. He was a botanist and a naturalist, and therefore innumerable sources of pleasure were opened to him. The plane-tree, the willow, the fir, and the cornel-tree, he found abounded most ; but he also met with the senna-tree, which is very large, and usually rises forty or fifty feet in height : it is straight as the mast of a ship, having no branches but on its head. The bark is of a bright grey, and the wood serves for all the purposes of building. Nor was he less interested in examining the trees that produce the gum mastic and frankincense, the latter of which resembled the pear-tree ; whilst from the leaves of the tamarisk-tree is dropped liquid manna, the best of which is of a yellowish kind, and of a coarse grain.

Once, too, he met with the kirzebre, a native of the province of Caramania, in this country. This

curious shrub grows to about the height of six feet, the stem being of the thickness of a man's leg. It produces round leaves, and flowers resembling the sweetbrier.

The royal grape, as it is termed, Edward had an opportunity of partaking of. It is of a gold colour; transparent, and about the size of an olive. It is never watered, and the fruit grows only on the young branches. From it the best wine in the country is made.

Mackenzie, as I have told you, was always on the look-out for subjects of observation; and, one morning, taking a stroll before breakfast, his attention was attracted by seeing a number of persons busily employed in a field, which he had lately seen luxuriant with poppies in full bloom, many of which had attained the height of four feet. He went up to them, and found, that the leaves having fallen off, and the heads become nearly ripe, they were making incisions in them, with a sharp instrument, and collecting the thick liquid juice that flowed from them. This juice, he learnt, was afterward worked up with a little water, till it became of the consistence and brightness of the finest pitch; and, afterward, exported, under the name of opium, in flat, irregular masses, into Europe.

Another day my friend observed, on a large tree, with winged leaves like those of an ash, some pointed nuts, about the size and shape of filberts ; and, on gathering one, and breaking off the outer shell, he found it to contain a kernel of a pale greenish colour, covered with a yellowish skin, which, on tasting, he instantly discovered to be the pistachio nut.

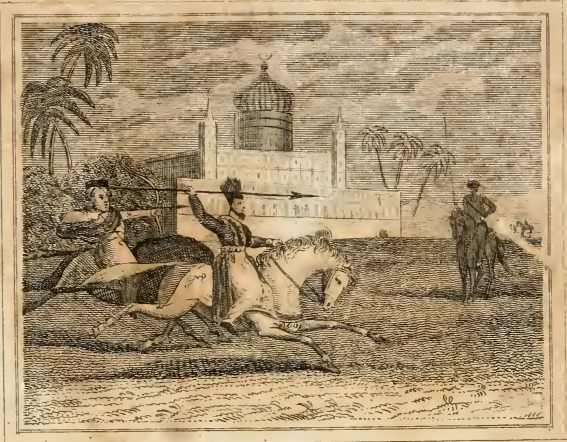
But nothing more amused Edward, whilst amongst the Persians, than their skill in horsemanship ; in which, indeed, they excel most other nations. He was astonished to see with what grace and dexterity they mounted their steeds, sitting steadily on their saddles, whilst galloping with a loose rein ; and then stopping short, or suddenly turning to the right or left, whilst the horse was upon full speed.

Observing a party of horsemen at a little distance one day, he drew near, and his attention was directly attracted by a game which they were playing. Each of the men who were engaged, was provided with a short bat, with which he endeavoured to strike a ball, which was thrown among the competitors stooping almost to the ground for that purpose, whilst his horse was at full speed. The game was to be obtained by driving the ball to a certain goal, and he who struck it oftenest in the attempt, was the winner.

To the schools also Edward often resorted, to see the young pupils taught to shoot with the bow at a mark ; an exercise in which they greatly excel, arriving at a wonderful degree of steadiness and dexterity.

In the use of the sabre and the lance the pupils were also initiated. The former was thrown on horseback, and very considerable skill was often displayed in these exercises.

The scarcity of water in Persia, often rendered the method of its conveyance to the corn-fields, gardens, and city, an amusing sight to the young traveller. Indeed, its proper management is of the utmost importance, and an officer is appointed in every province, for the purpose of seeing it regularly distributed ; every little spring or rivulet being conducted to that part of the country where it is most wanted. Wells of a prodigious depth and breadth are in many places dug ; out of which, with the assistance of oxen, they draw up water in great leather buckets, which are emptied into large cisterns, where the water is reserved, to be used by the people as occasion may require. And there are also some subterraneous aqueducts, through which the water is sometimes conveyed to the distance of twenty and thirty leagues, built about two fathoms high, and arched with brick ;



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holes, like wells, being made at the distance of twenty paces, for the convenience of repairing. The distribution of the water is made one day to one quarter of the town and another day to the other, till all are supplied ; every person opening for its reception, the canal or reservoir in his garden, for which a certain yearly sum is paid to government for every garden ; and as it is easy for a person to divert his neighbour's water into his own receptacle, they punish this offence with great severity. By an ancient law it was enacted, that whoever conveyed the water of a spring to any spot which had not been watered before, should, besides other immunities, enjoy the benefit of that water, even to the end of the fifth generation. The custom is still observed, and the day on which it is first introduced, is a day of rejoicing among the peasantry. A fortunate hour is appointed for its being let loose, shouts of joy are heard, and exclamations of, "May prosperity attend it," are echoed on every side.

Whilst the young traveller was at Shiraz, he determined to visit the ruins of Persepolis, situated about ten leagues distant, and once a great, flourishing, and magnificent city ; but sacrificed to the wild caprice of a courtesan, by Alexander the Great, in a fit of intemperance.

The remains of this city stand upon a long, narrow, and well-watered plain. They appear at present, in the form of an ampitheatre, and are encompassed, at some distance, by a chain of hills of the same figure.

As Edward walked along the mouldering range of ruins, imagination forcibly reverted to those days when kings and conquerors dwelt within its precincts, and passed in revelry and mirth, those days which are now numbered with "the generations before the flood."

There are still remaining several gates and staircases, besides a variety of pillars or columns with highly ornamented capitals, and a vast variety of lofty portals. There are also standing some walls of black marble, polished on the surface, the blocks of which they are composed being enormous. A large terrace, which these stupendous walls seem calculated to support, stretches itself onwards, till it nearly reaches the mountains; whilst innumerable mutilated statues, and broken figures of animals, are scattered along the plain, and prove that, in its prosperity, it must have been richly adorned with these works of the statuary.

Mackenzie was possessed of too classical a mind, not to observe that the drapery of the hu-

man figures, visible on the different parts of these remains of antiquity, differs totally from that of the ancient Greek and Roman sculpture. The habits of those who appeared to be military, were evidently those of the Persians and Medes.

The stones which compose the greater part of these buildings are blue, but others are of different colours : yellow, red, deeper blue, white, black, and grey, are employed in the ornamental parts ; particularly within the portals, and in the windows and pavements. They are, however, all polished to a degree of transparency, and their surfaces are as perfect as that of a mirror.

But it is useless for me to attempt to give you an idea of these superb ruins. You must, therefore, be satisfied with the outline that I have sketched, and accompany Edward to the sepulchres of the kings, that lie at a small distance from the mountains. Some of these are in exceedingly good preservation, and highly ornamented with figures and warriors, many of which are as large as life. On certain days in every year, great numbers of Persians visit one of these tombs, which contains the ashes of a venerated monarch. The father of this prince, who was originally a peasant lies near him. His monument in reference to his humble origin, is very simple, and far less decorated than that of his son.

The time for Mackenzie to leave Shiraz now drew near, and with feelings of unfeigned joy, he prepared to journey back again to Busheer ; from whence he proceeded to Bombay, and by the first vessel to England.

Need I describe the joy with which he was welcomed by his endeared family and friends, of whom I was one of the party ? To those who are members of an affectionate circle, such a description were vain ; and to those who are not, unhappily, it is useless to delineate what they cannot comprehend.

But I find that I have entered so fully into Edward's travels, that I have scarcely left space to give the continuation of my own narrative of the lands that I have visited, the curiosities that I have seen, or the habits and manners I have witnessed ; and as I hope my young readers are sufficiently interested in that part of my stories which has already been related, to render them anxious to hear the remainder, I shall now proceed, without farther delay, with the account of my own adventures.

CHAPTER V.

MY young readers will perhaps recollect, that in the first chapter of this little work, I mentioned that I had crossed oceans, traversed mountains, and visited distant countries; and in order to render my history complete, which has been so long interrupted by the narrations of my school-fellows, I must beg them to return with me to that period of my life, when I told them that, on quitting school, I was placed under the care of a clergyman in the country, preparatory to my being entered at the university.

My tutor was not only a man of extensive erudition and eminent learning, but he was also a naturalist, a botanist, and a geologist; and whilst he unrolled to me the vast stores of classical literature, he unfolded also to me the ample volume of natural philosophy, and led me from the study of the sages and orators of Greece, from the forum and the senate of ancient Rome, from the contemplation of human science, and art, to an investigation of the beauty, the skill, the wisdom, and the design, manifested in the insect that

fluttered in the breeze, the flower that perfumed the gale, or the pebble that we trod under foot.

With such an instructor, our retirement could not be solitude ; for every evening's walk teemed with amusement, and every pool, every hedge, and every bank, was animated with life and motion. Nor was it only in the increased acquirements of knowledge, that these pursuits were useful to me : my curiosity was directed to proper subjects, my attention was diverted from myself, and all the long train of wants and wishes that devolve on the idle, to other and nobler objects. It is true, there were moments when my pride, and my love of distinction would manifest themselves ; and more than once I was tempted to be vain of my newly-acquired information, and to look down with contempt on others who were less intimately acquainted with things that were now familiar to me. But Mr. Elwood, who watched as assiduously the variations of my disposition as he did the cultivation of my talents, checked, as far as in him lay, these erroneous notions.

“ Knowledge, my dear Daltry,” he would say, “ is, indeed, power ; but in proportion as our power increases, our benevolence should extend ; for whilst cultivating to the utmost the talents bestowed upon us is a bounden duty, every new

possession that raises us above those with whom we commonly associate, is an imperative call upon us to double our diligence in using aright the advantages conferred upon us. It is of little consequence whether it be learning, or wealth, or rank, that elevates us : each and all incur an additional responsibility, and each and all must be faithfully accounted for, in that great day when the secrets of all hearts shall be known—when these splendid gifts shall be recalled, and we be judged not only by what we *might* have done, but by what we *have* done.”

These were great and awful truths ; and whilst I contemplated his elegance of manners, whilst I felt his mental superiority, whilst I knew his active benevolence and his practical piety, I neither dared to deny nor despise them. No : they sunk deep into my heart, and whilst I still followed him at an humble distance, I yet strove and prayed to be made more conformable to that holy Pattern, that Divine Redeemer, by whose precepts I knew he walked, by whose spirit I believed he was guided.

In this manner, three years glided over my head, with no other variation than those occasional trips to the metropolis I before mentioned ; and, as I was to leave him after this vacation, I

determined to remain with him during the Christmas holidays.

We were sitting one evening round the fire, and had entered into an animated conversation, on the interesting letters of the younger Pliny, when a loud rap not only startled us, but roused Wolf, our noble dog, from the sound nap into which he had fallen. "Who can this be, I wonder?" said Mr. Elwood, and in the next moment the door opened, and Sidney Philips, the nephew of my tutor, saluted his uncle. With all the frankness and candour of a sailor, the young lieutenant briefly stated his motives for this unexpected visit. His ship, he said, had put into port, and as it was likely to remain there some time, he thought he could not better spend a few weeks than with his uncle and guardian. He was welcomed with all the warmth of affection; and ere many hours had passed, even I found my reserve begin to give way to the gay good humour and openness of our new guest. His arrival, indeed, altered our whole plans; for he was so full of frolic and fun, so continually devising new schemes of amusement, or practising some joke upon our poor simple peasants, that it was more than his uncle, and as much as I could do, to keep pace with him. Then he was fond of visiting, and very shortly became

not only acquainted, but intimate, with all the neighbouring farmers' families; and what between his riding and shooting, (for he *would* shoot, though it was often much to the amusement of his more experienced companions,) and escorting his friends to the neighbouring town, he not only contrived to keep himself in constant action, but imparted a somewhat similar degree of bustle to every one in his immediate vicinity.

He was, however, with all these locomotive propensities, not only a young man of talents, but also of observation. He had seen a great deal, and he had noticed a great deal; and, as he was remarkable for his veracity, and really very correct in his descriptions, he afforded me, when he would sit down and relate his adventures, a very high treat. I had always been passionately fond of books of travels, but to hear from the lips of one who had actually witnessed them, the narrative of the manners and habits of men of other climates; to hear him tell of the billows rolling mountains high, whilst the ship rose and fell with them, like the walnut-shell boat of a boy; to hear of the groves of cocoas and spice-trees that scented the air, and of tiger-hunts, and of entrapping elephants; and, above all, of the strange dresses and uncouth manner of the natives: oh! it was far

more delightful to me than I can express. It has been said, that the amusing story of Robinson Crusoe has excited in many a boy a spirit of enterprise, and I can believe it; and so eagerly at last did I listen, and so interested did I become, that I actually wrote to my guardians, to request permission to take a voyage, instead of removing to college.

To this proposition, of course, I received a positive denial; and, at the expiration of the time that I was to remain with Mr. Elwood, I left him with feelings of deep regret, having first received from the sailor, assurances that he would forward me regular accounts of his next voyage.

My time at the university was spent with, I hope, considerable advantage to myself: at least, I had the pleasure of taking my degree with a portion of reputation that enhanced the pleasure of having arrived at this part of my career; and I had almost acceded to the wishes of my guardians, that I should qualify myself for taking orders, when the return of Edward Mackenzie, as I have before told you, and my subsequent visit to him, altered the whole of my future destination, and rekindled that spirit which had only for a time lain dormant. I, therefore, again addressed my relations on the subject; informing them, also, that

there was a projected plan of an embassy to China, and assuring them, that if, through the means of their interest, I could obtain a situation in the civil department, it would be attaining the summit of my wishes.

Thus urged, and finding my resolution unalterably taken, my friends made my request known in a quarter where their solicitations were not likely to fail; and as emolument was by no means an object either with them or myself, I had at last the satisfaction of finding that I was nominated to an appointment, and I prepared, with feelings of intense pleasure, for my projected voyage.

The only regret that shadowed my bright prospects, was parting with Mr. Elwood and Edward Mackenzie, who both accompanied me to the ship, and did not bid me farewell till, with a favourable breeze, we hoisted our sails, and bade adieu to the white cliffs of old England.

There was but little to attract my attention in our voyage, till we anchored in the roads of Funchal, the chief town of the island of Madeira, situated at the foot of craggy mountains, and washed by the sea, whose waves dash with some violence against the large stones that cover the beach.

My sensations on finding myself in a foreign country were, of course, novel. The houses, even the poorest, were regular and stately; and in every direction I encountered people with faces wholly different from those I had been accustomed to: friars with their black gowns, and women, to whose dresses were appended beads and a crucifix. The great church of the place was magnificent, and mass was performed with an almost dazzling splendour. But if I was struck with the town of Funchal, I was not less interested in the surrounding country. In this beautiful island, in which spring and autumn reign together, and flowers and fruit mingled in rich profusion at the same time, hedges of myrtles, roses, jessamines, and honeysuckles, uncultivated, and in almost everlasting blossom, mix their perfumes with the groves of orange and citron-trees, that every where salute the eye; whilst the larkspur, the fleur-de-lis, the lupine, and many other plants which I had been accustomed to regard only as the inhabitants of the green-house, spring up here spontaneously, and diversify and add beauty to the surrounding meadows. Here, too, flourishes the banana-tree, which grows about fifteen or twenty feet high, and is near a yard in circumference, whilst its leaves are often eight feet long, and two or three broad.

When the plant is grown to its full height, the spikes of flowers, which are often four feet long, appear in the centre. The flowers come out in bunches, and each bunch is covered with a purple spathe or sheath, which drops off when the flowers open. The fruit is about a foot long, and nearly two inches in diameter. It is at first green ; but when ripe, is of a pale yellow colour. The skin is tough, and contains a pulp of a luscious sweet flavour. Grapes, of a flavour and size unknown to our western island, being nearly as large as our common plum, abound here ; whilst among the mountains, growing wild, and in astonishing luxuriance, are citrons, peaches, nectarines, melons, apricots, strawberries, figs, and a great variety of other fruit. I have forgotten to mention a peculiarity in one species of orange which I met with here ; it is of a bright red, and is produced from the common orange-bud engrafted on the pomegranate stock. Here is likewise a singular pear, not larger than a walnut, and very crisp. But of all the variety of trees that presented themselves, none were, in my eyes, more beautiful than the cedars, which graced the country in abundance. Well may the inhabitants of Madeira exult in their possession of this ornament of their island ; and well do they discover their taste in building their

ceilings, and in making much of their furniture, of this fragrant wood.

Nor did I derive my only pleasure from scenery. I was never weary of admiring the serenity and transparency of the sky at night, diversified as it was with innumerable falling meteors, shooting almost every moment; and often, very often, when all was still around me did I lean over the sides of the ship, and continue to gaze on the clear blue heavens.

Our stay was not sufficiently long in Madeira to render me acquainted with the inhabitants, who in general appeared to be good-natured, sober, frugal, and indolent: particularly the men, who often lie basking in the sun, or stretched at their length upon their floors, while their wives and daughters are sent to the distance of some miles up the mountains, to cut down broom, which they carry in loads to Funchal, where it is bought for fuel. These women, notwithstanding the roughness of the roads travelled barefooted; and the poorness of their food, consisting chiefly of pumpkins and salt fish, added to the severity of their labour and the warmth of the climate, gave them the appearance of age at an early period of life. They had most of them dark complexions; both sexes had forbidding features, and were under the middle size of Europeans.

Ere I quit the description of Madeira, I think I ought to tell you that I here met with the sugar-cane, though its culture is in a great degree abandoned. The cane in this island grows to the height of about eight feet, and in form resembles a common reed, with a jointed stem, and leaves springing from the joints. The middle of the stem furnishes the best and sweetest juice.

Whilst traversing the island, some of our party observed the crater of an extinct volcano, about four hundred yards in diameter around the sides, and at the bottom of which were scattered fragments of lava. This gave rise to a variety of opinions on the subject ; and it seemed at last to be decided by the generality of my friends that there had been several craters in the island, and that eruptions from them had taken place at various and very distant intervals. In examining the chain of the highest mountains, we could, however, scarcely discover any volcanic appearance. The clouds frequently envelope their tops, and from them descend all the streams and rivulets of the island. Their antiquity is marked by the deep chasms or gulfs they have formed, in their descent between the ridges of the rocks, during the long lapse of time they have continued to flow. In the beds of these rivulets are found

pebbles of various sizes, and large rounded masses of silex, such as are usually found in the beds of many similar torrents in the Alps. The soil also of the fields and pasturage grounds appears exactly the same as those of the continent, where no volcanic fire has ever been suspected.

It is likewise to be observed, that no lava of a glassy nature has been discovered in Madeira, nor any perfect pumice-stone : circumstances which both indicate that the highest degree of heat had not been suffered here. But it is probable, (and here I speak from the authority of a gentleman well versed in the subject,) that the bay or beach of Funchal, is a segment of a large crater, the exterior part of which has sunk into the sea : for, in the first place, the shingles, or blue stones upon the beach, are all of compact lava : secondly, tempestuous weather throws always on the shore larger masses of the same blue lava-stone, and also a quantity of cellular lava, approaching to pumice-stone in texture, but much heavier, and not fibrous : and lastly, the Loo Rock, and landing-place opposite to it, to the westward of Funchal Bay, as well as that on which Fort St. Jago is constructed, are evidently perpendicular fragments of the edges of the crater, which have hitherto resisted the action of the sea, by having been better

supported, or having more closely adhered together, though much worn by the violence of the surge. They bear not the least resemblance to the neighbouring rocks a little within shore.

Having taken in a sufficient quantity of the celebrated wine of this island, and also a few pipes of Malmsey, which is also made from another very sweet grape growing here, we proceeded on our voyage towards the Brazils; and without any material occurrence, arrived safely in the harbour of Rio de Janeiro, the shores of which were diversified and embellished with villages, farms and plantations; now separated by the ridges of a rock, now divided by a rivulet, or again intersected by little sandy bays; whilst in the back-ground rose an amphitheatre, or screen of mountains, rising in a vast variety of fantastic forms, but covered with trees to their very summits.

I soon, in company with several of the other officers, obtained permission to land. The streets were filled with strong negro men, carrying very heavy casks on a pole, and singing a sort of unpleasant note. There were also negro women carrying fish, &c. and we saw a few palanquins, which were drawn by two mules; whilst turtles, bananas, oranges, papaws, water-melons, limes, tamarinds, and fustic wood were exposed to sale.

I was extremely struck with the constant ceremonials of religion that were going forward. At every hour, bells or sometimes skyrockets, announced that some solemnity was performing; and after sun-set, the streets were crowded with processions. At every corner was stuck up, in a glass case, the image of the Virgin Mary, to which homage was regularly paid by those who passed along. Alas! I fear, it was too often the compliance with custom, rather than prostration of the heart, that led many to bend the knee at the sign of the cross, which was also displayed at every turn.

I must confess that the fine dark eyes of the ladies, with their animated faces, their hair hanging down in tresses, and ornamented with flowers, with their heads uncovered, was to me far more attractive and becoming, than the long cloaks of the gentlemen, with their swords hanging by their sides. And as I sometimes followed these fair beings from the churches to their houses, and heard them afterward playing and singing to the guitar or harpsichord, I could not but wish their minds were more enlightened, and that they were not so completely the victims of superstition.

One evening, attracted by the sounds of some beautiful music, I unconsciously lingered near the

window; when the gentleman of the house perceiving me, came out and invited me to walk in. I could not refuse an invitation so kindly given, and, thanking him for his politeness, was shown into a room, in which sat three young ladies, his daughters.

They were handsome and unaffected, and not only amused me with some of their national songs, but afterwards kindly invited me to accompany them to a public garden, situated near the seaside, and at one extremity of the town. After amusing ourselves for some time with the exercise of walking amongst the grassplats, shrubberies, and spreading trees, which were planted in this place of public and gay resort, we sat down to a banquet, during which music was playing, and fire-works were exhibited; and, after having finished this refreshment, we again occupied ourselves in examining the curious and fantastic ornaments of the place. In one extremity of the terrace, there was, however, much taste and ingenuity displayed on the ceiling and cornices of a summer-house, which were composed of devices wrought in feathers, and portraying the most beautiful birds proper to the Brazils, curiously arranged in their natural plumage. We remained till night was very far advanced; and, on bidding adieu to

my kind host and his lovely family, I was again pressed to repeat my visit, and requested to add to the little party, which, on the following day, were about to pay a visit to a brother who resided in the country. Anxious to have every opportunity of examining for myself the manners and habits of the inhabitants of the Brazils, I readily agreed to the proposal, and, accordingly, I again joined them at the appointed hour. Our ride was beautiful. The hills were covered with bananas, coconut-trees, oranges, lemons, olive, coffee, and cotton-plants; and, as I perceived a slave in the act of gathering some of the first-named fruit, I begged that they would stay a few moments, in order to allow of my seeing the method in which it was performed. Round his ancles was tied a rope, so as to leave a space of about a foot between them. Thus prepared, with his arms he embraced the tree, while he rested upon the joints, (which at short distances are found upon the trunk,) not with his feet, but by the rope connecting them. His body thus supported, he lifted his arms higher; and thus successively raising his hands and feet, he quickly arrived at the spot from whence he could reach and throw down the fruit below. The cocoa-nut grows at the upper extremity of the single trunk, near the origin of the

great spreading leaves ; and the stem, in rising, somewhat declines from the perpendicular. Senor Antonio, the gentleman with whom I was, desired his servants to fetch a few of the nuts ; and having broken them, I must own that the milk is peculiarly grateful in this hot climate.

At length we arrived at a long vista of cocoa-nut trees, orange trees, &c. &c., underneath which blossomed roses in profusion ; but there was no verdure to refresh the eye, wearied almost with gazing on magnificence. Yet, in the uncultivated parts of the country, I often found the luxuriance was so rank, that the whole space, even to the tops of the trees, was filled with long, stringy shrubs and weeds, so as to make them impervious and opaque. We shortly afterwards reached the house, and were welcomed by the master and his young and interesting wife. After having entered on some animated topics of conversation, during which my host seemed anxious to obtain all the information he could respecting England, he proposed showing me the root of the mandioc, called by us tapioca. It resembled, I think, most nearly, the horse-radish. The mill for grinding it was extremely simple. A horizontal wheel turned by horses, put in motion a vertical one ; on the circumference of which was a thin,

brazen plate, formed on the inside like a nutmeg grater ; a slave held the root to the wheel, which grated it away, and threw it, in the form of paste, into a receptacle below. It is then dried in pans, and used as a farina with meat ; and, indeed, this day at dinner, it was handed with every plate. The entertainment was conducted very differently from any I had been accustomed to. There was a great variety of little dishes, mixed in a manner not very palatable to my European taste, and only two plates at a time were put upon the table ; but every thing followed in quick succession. They regaled me with sweetmeats afterwards, and some delicious oranges, which were here as plentiful as apples are with us.

There was but one drawback to my pleasure on this day, and that was the sufferings I endured from the stings of the musquitoes, or large gnats, which generally attack strangers. We staid, on our return home, to observe the manufacture of cochineal, an insect which forms a beautiful dye, and which feeds on the cactus or prickly pear ; but this little creature has been so often described, that it would seem almost a waste of time to enter upon it here.

As I had expressed my admiration of the size and vivid hue of many of the flowers that we had

passed that day, and also of the gaudy plumage of the birds which came occasionally in sight, my kind friends offered to take me the next morning to the house of a botanic friend, where I was shown many curious dried specimens of the native plants. Amongst them was the *ipecacuanha*, an herbaceous plant, about three feet high, with a single stem, and lanceolated leaves; but, as he had not preserved the flower, I cannot give you its proper character.

As we returned very late, I was invited to lodge at the house of Sennor Antonio. A neat woven mat, with an elastic pillow placed upon a platform raised somewhat above the floor, was all the bed required in this hot climate; and no other covering was used but a night-dress.

Walking with my hospitable entertainer one day, I passed some very fine cocoa-trees, from the nut of which is made chocolate. It grows about twenty feet high. The nut is contained within a rind of a melon shape, as large as a man's two fists, with the kernels clustered in the inside. The fruit grows principally from the stem; or, when found on the branches, still preserves its character, and grows from the main branch, not from a lateral twig. But it would be endless, were I to attempt to enumerate the trees that flourish in

the Brazils, with a luxuriance and profusion almost incredible. It must suffice to say, by way of example, that the rexia, mimosa, acacia, and fern, here grow to the size of large trees; and shrubs, that in England require toil and labour, here assume an almost majestic character, and are found in the hedges and woods uncultivated, and almost, in some instances, disregarded from their number. Wild pine apples assisted in forming the hedges; and the aloe, which grows to a considerable height, is frequently seen amidst the branches of the mangoe and other trees.

My extreme intimacy with the family of Sennor Antonio may, perhaps, appear singular; and it is therefore right to inform you, that on the evening I was first introduced to them, I not only mentioned my name, but the part of England from whence I came; and I was surprised and pleased to find that, in the early part of his life, my kind host had not only been sent over to enjoy the advantages of a superior classical education, at one of our first schools, but that he had actually been at the same academy with my father. To this gentleman I was indebted, subsequently, for opportunities of pursuing my studies in natural history; and ere I quitted his hospitable roof, I received from him, not only a beautifully preserved

specimen of the anhima, but also the body, admirably stuffed, of the anhinga, a very elegant species of the *mergi aquatici*, or divers, as they are called by the common people. As these birds are both remarkable, I shall make a point of describing them to you, and first give you an account of the anhima. This formidable bird, which seems armed at all points, has also in the front of each wing, at the second joint, two straight, triangular spurs, about the thickness of a swan's quill: the foremost of these spurs being about an inch long, the hinder one somewhat shorter, and both of a dusky colour. Its claws are long and sharp, and connected by a membrane, as in the cormorant and duck kinds. Its tail is about eight inches long; and its wings, when folded, reach more than half the length of the tail. The head and neck are of a yellowish colour, and covered with extremely soft feathers; the breast, belly, and thighs, are of a silvery white; and the upper part of the back is brown, spotted with yellow, all the rest being black. The anhima has a loud, terrible cry, sounding something like "vyhoo! vyhoo!" It is never found alone, but always in pairs, the cock and hen constantly prowling together; and such is said to be the fidelity of these birds, that when one dies, the other remains by the dead

carcase till it expires with hunger. It builds a nest of clay on the ground, near the trunks of trees, in the shape of an oven.

The body of the anhinga, the other bird I mentioned, with the exception of the neck, is the size of a common tame duck. Its bill, which is sharp and slender, is three inches long; the foremost half of the lower and upper parts containing a double row of little, hooked teeth, inclining backwards: its head, which somewhat resembles a serpent's, is not two inches long; its eyes are black, encircled with gold; and its round, slender neck, is a foot in length, though the body is only seven inches. The legs are remarkably short, and the thighs are feathered. It has four toes; three turned forwards, joined together by membranes, after the manner of ducks or cormorants; the fourth shorter, extended sideways below, and joined to the rest by a membrane. The claws are very sharp and crooked. It has a broad tail, ten inches long, consisting of twelve feathers; and the wings terminate about the middle of the tail. The bill is grey, and, after its rise, a little yellowish. All the head and neck are covered with very fine feathers, as soft to the touch as velvet; on the upper side, of a colour from grey inclining to yellow, and those at the throat being

entirely grey. The whole breast, lower belly, and upper legs, are covered with soft feathers of a silver colour; and the beginning of the back is clothed with brown ones, each having an oblong spot of whitish yellow in the centre, so that it appears speckled: the rest of the back is black. It has long wings covered with short feathers, spotted at the beginning like those of the back; which are succeeded by a row of half grey, and half black ones, (that is, on one side the shaft, grey, on the other black,) the prime feathers being all black. The tail consists of black and shining feathers tipped with grey. The legs and feet are of a dark yellow, inclining to grey.

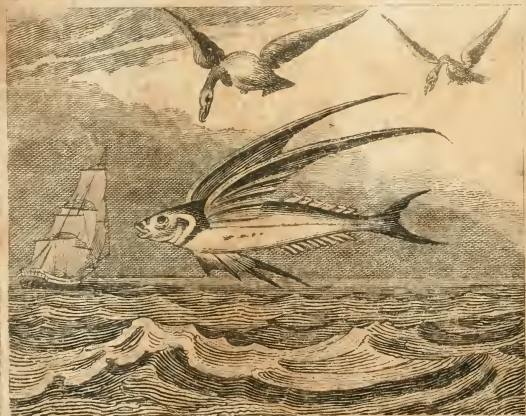
The anhinga is remarkably cunning in its method of catching fish; for, after the manner of serpents, first drawing up its neck, it darts forth its bill on its prey, and then seizes it with its claws.

I felt not only gratified, but even affected by the testimonies of friendship that were lavished on me; and although I really am not fond of monkeys, yet, when Fernando, the youngest boy, a child of about nine years of age, came laden with a monkey that he could scarcely carry, but which had been domesticated in his family, and requested me to bear it not only to China, but to carry it to England, I promised the affectionate boy that I

would comply with his request ; and often, indeed, did the gambols of poor pug divert many a weary hour, and carry me back to those scenes in which I had seen him perform a variety of tricks, to the no small amusement of little Fernando.

Alas ! poor pug, thine was a brief, but, I think happy life, after thou camest into my possession. He had become so familiar with me, that I one day unloosed him from his chain, and suffered him to amuse himself with running about the ship. It afterward was my constant practice to unchain him for a few hours daily, and allow him to follow me. Unhappily, Jago, for so I named him, was a great mimic ; and having noticed a seaman let down a bucket into the sea, whilst my attention was attracted to another part of the vessel, he seized a wooden basin that was near, and was in the act of dipping it, when he overbalanced himself and fell overboard. The sailor who had been watching him immediately gave the alarm, and every attempt was made in vain, to rescue poor Jago from his watery grave ; and I really felt a degree of sorrow at the loss of the unfortunate animal, which was augmented by reflections on my own apparent degree of carelessness.

But I am anticipating the events of the voyage ; particularly as I wish to give you a description of





this monkey, which may be distinguished from the rest, by having no thumb, and, consequently, but four fingers on each of the two fore paws ; but the tail supplies the defects of the hand, and with this, the animal flings itself from tree to tree with surprising activity.

It has five toes on the hind feet, a slender body, and a long tail. The body, which is about eighteen inches long, is covered with long, black, rough hair. These monkeys, being extremely agile, they greatly enliven the forest in which they reside. In order to pass from the top of one lofty tree to another, whose branches are too distant for a leap, they form a kind of chain, by hanging down, linked to each other by their tails, and swinging in that manner till the lowermost catches hold of a bough of the next tree, and draws up the rest.

Sennor Sebastian, the son whom I visited in the country, also presented me with a stuffed skin of the preacher monkey. This curious species of a curious race, is about the size of a fox, with long, black hair, and a long tail, always twisted at the end. It has black, shining eyes ; short, round ears ; and a round beard under the chin and throat.

It inhabits the woods of Brazil and Guiana, and is the largest of the monkey kind found in Ameri-

ca. Its voice is remarkably loud, and it makes a most dreadful howling.

It is common for one of these creatures to ascend a lofty tree, and the rest to place themselves on the branches below. That monkey which is elevated above the rest, sets up a shrill and loud howl, which may be heard at a great distance. After having harangued his companions for some time, he makes a signal with his hand, when the whole assembly immediately join in chorus; and, on a second signal, they become silent, and the orator finishes his speech.

Their clamour, on such occasions, is more disagreeable and tremendous than can be easily conceived. These monkeys are very fierce, mischievous, and untameable.

In one of my excursions with my Portuguese friends, we fell in with a party of the original inhabitants of the Brazils. A love of freedom, an intelligence, and even keenness, and shrewdness, were discernable in their long, dark eyes. They were somewhat under the middle size, but well made, and muscular, stout and active, of a light brown complexion, with strong, black, uncurling hair, and but little beard. My friends told me that they had endeavoured to educate some of their children; but that they always turned out un-

tractable, and had, in most instances returned to their original habits of life.

In this excursion I met with that singular little animal, called the long-nosed cavy, which is about the size of a rabbit, has a long nose, a divided upper lip, short, rounded ears, and black eyes. The hair is hard and shining, composed of a mixture of red, brown, and black; being of a bright orange-colour on the rump, and yellow on the belly. It has black, slender legs, four toes on the fore feet, three on the hind, and a short, naked tail.

It grunts like a pig, and, resting on its hind legs, holds its food with its fore feet when it eats, and conceals what it cannot devour.

It runs very fast, its motions resembling those of a hare. When pursued, it usually takes shelter in a hollow tree; and, when irritated, its hair bristles on its back, and it strikes the ground with its feet. Its flesh is eaten by the inhabitants of South America, who esteem it very palatable; and the animal is capable of being domesticated and rendered tame.

"You *shall* take with you," said Fernando, the evening before I left, "a jacupema."

"A jacupema, my dear boy," said I: what is that?"

"Why, do not you know the bird that cries,

jacu, jacu ; with its beautiful crest, which it erects, or depresses at pleasure ; and its broad tail, which papa said was twelve inches long. Ours is very tame : you must have it, and we can get another."

"Fernando in giving you the appellation of the country, forgets to tell you," said Sennor Antonio, "that it is a Brazilian pheasant. Walk with me, and I will show it you.

I did so, and found it to be a bird about the size of the common hen, with a plumage principally black, with a mixture of a little brown and white. The upper part of the neck naked, having only a red skin over it ; the lower part of the body, and hind part of the wings, composed of black and white feathers, with a black tail, and the upper part of the legs black, with red feet. "I cannot take it with me, Fernando," I said ; "but I can carry with me the recollection of your friendship, and I shall do so too ; and not only yours, but that of all your interesting group."

CHAPTER VI.

I QUITTED the Brazils with feelings of deep regret, for I had received there a kindness and friendship I had rarely before known manifested to strangers.

As I was leaning, some days afterward, over the side of the ship, and dwelling on the remembrance of those from whom I was in all probability, separated for ever, and rejoicing in the conviction that, however nations may be devided by interposing seas, or other barriers, benevolence of heart is confined to no climate or people, my attention was diverted to one of those curious creatures called the flying-fish, the *hirundo* of naturalists, which, having mounted out of the water, suddenly became entangled in one of the sails of the vessel, and was caught and brought to me by a sailor.

As I gazed on this curious native of the marine element, I could not help recurring to the fable which asserts, that its ambitious wishes were punished in their fulfilment. Nor could I help repeating aloud the last stanzas of that beautiful poem, addressed by Mr. Moore to the unconscious fish.

“O virtue, when thy clime I seek,
Let not my spirit's flight be weak ;
Let me not, like this feeble thing,
With brine still dropping from its wing,
Just sparkle in the solar glow,
And plunge again to depths below ;
But, when I leave the grosser throng,
With whom my soul hath dwelt so long ;
Let me, on that aspiring day,
Cast every lingering stain away ;
And panting for thy purer air,
Fly up at once, and fix me there !”

But I must not detain you by telling you of what I thought, but give you a description of what it is. The flying fish, then, resembles, in the shape of the body, the herring, except that the back is flat. The scales are large and silvery. The dorsal fin is small, and placed near the tail. The pectoral fins, the instruments of flight, are almost as large as the body. The tail is bifurcated ; that is, two forked. The belly is white ; and the upper surfaces of the wings are of an olive-colour, beautifully spotted near their edges with blue. It is supposed that the life of the flying-fish is subject to more miseries than are usually ascribed to the finny race ; since, in its own element, it is constantly pursued by the doradas, and other fish of prey ; and when it attempts to rise into the air, it is attacked by the gull or the albatross ; from whence it only escapes, to drop into the mouths of its marine enemies.

Accustomed as my eye had lately been to variety, I must confess, when, on reaching the Cape of Good Hope, and anchoring in Table Bay, I went on shore, I was gratified by the beauty of the scenery that every where presented itself to my view. The country, indeed, around the Cape is full of rocks and mountains ; but their spacious summits are clothed with rich pasture, enamelled with a variety of flowers of the most exquisite beauty and fragrance ; and abound with delicious springs, which pour down the slopes, and meander along the valleys. The intervening plains are as beautiful as fancy can paint, and charm the eye of every spectator who is capable of relishing the exuberant productions of unassisted nature.

As it would be impossible for me to enter into particulars of the various trees, plants, and fruits which adorn this fertile soil, you must be content with hearing, that there is no spot in the whole world which has a more cherishing bosom for vegetables, nor any clime more propitious to their growth. The company's gardens at Cape Town, where we then were, were elegantly laid out, and filled with the choicest fruits which the benignity of the climate can produce ; and the finest flowers expand their vivid beauties to the sun. Even Asiatic and European vegetables thrive better at

the Cape than in their native soil, which is a proof of their favourable situation.

I found but little, comparatively, to interest me in Cape Town; but as it was my intention to examine man, not only as he is found congregated in large places, where his habits in general are artificial, and his character moulded, in a degree, into that of his neighbours, I procured a guide, and resolved to penetrate into the interior, and gain an insight, if possible, of the customs and dispositions of the native Hottentots.

We had not proceeded far into the interior, when a loud noise, which seemed to express *crack! crack!* drew my attention to the spot from whence it seemed to issue. On drawing near, I found that it proceeded from the knor-cock and knor-hen, which serve as sentinels to the other winged tribes, giving timely notice of the approach of danger; for no sooner do they perceive a man, than the signal is made, and the other birds take flight instantly. This bird is of the size of the common hen. The feathers on the crown are black; but the rest is variegated with white, red, and ash-colour. Its beak is short and black, and its legs yellow. The flesh, my guide informed me, was considered very delicious.

The cry of this bird gave me an opportunity of



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observing the blue bird, which flitted nearly close to me, and which differs only from a starling in its colour ; and also the gnat-snapper, or honey-eater, which flew from the tree on which it was perched, to another not far from the spot, and which subsists entirely upon honey, directing the natives to the stores of the industrious bee.

When the general flutter, which the cry of the knor-cock had occasioned, had a little subsided, I was surprised to hear the word *edolio* distinctly repeated ; and on looking up, I found that it was uttered by a bird resembling our cuckoo, both in shape and size, which was sitting on a thick bush not far distant from our path. It flew off, however, on my approach, and I therefore could not examine it as attentively as I wished. "It derives its name," said my guide, "from its frequent and clear repetition of that word. But do you observe (he added) that beautiful flamingo, that is standing by the bank of that river, which you may see winding through those trees. Stand still ; for if the flamingo once experiences the tyranny of man, he avoids him with the most cautious circumspection." I did so, and observed its manner of feeding, which was very curious. It thrust down its head, so that the upper convex side of the bill only touched the ground : and in this position, the bird

appears as if it stood on its head. In this attitude, it paddled and moved its bill about, seizing whatever fish or insect happened to come in its way ; and for this purpose the upper chap is notched at the edges, so that it can hold its prey with greater security.

At this moment something alarmed the flamingo, and, with a voice as shrill as a trumpet, it rose, screaming, into the air ; and the sun shining on its beautiful scarlet plumage, exhibited, indeed, a splendid sight.

During the first year, they are covered with whitish plumage variegated with grey. In the second year, the whole body is white, with a few tints of scarlet, and the great covert wing-feathers of the bird are black. The third year equips the bird in all its destined beauty ; the whole body becoming like scarlet, except a few feathers in the wings, which still retain their sable hue.

My guide, who seemed to enter with interest into my questions respecting this noble bird, (which is of the size of a swan, with legs and neck of such extraordinary dimensions, that, when it stands erect, it is upwards of six feet high ; whilst the expansion of the wings is five feet six inches, and their length four feet eight inches,) informed me, that he had once an opportunity of seeing the nest of the flamingo.

It was built in an extensive marsh, raised from the surface of the water about a foot and a half, and formed of mud indurated by the sun, or the heat of the bird's body. It resembled a truncated cone in its figure, and at the top it was excavated in the shape of a bird. In it were two eggs: and, indeed, the nest is seldom found to contain more.

Every body is so well acquainted with the history of the ostrich, that I shall only tell you that we saw several in our progress. Neither shall I describe to you the spoonbill, several of which I saw: and which, from feeding on venomous insects and serpents, is, therefore, never molested by the natives.

But there was an animal ran by us one day, which I must tell you of. It is called by the Dutch (a name vulgar enough, I grant, but, nevertheless, sufficiently expressive of its disagreeable qualities,) the stinkbingsom, or stinkbox. It is shaped like a ferret, and is about the size of an ordinary dog; and, whenever it is pursued, it emits such a horrid stench, that no creature can endure it: so that nature seems to have furnished it with a more effectual defence from its enemies than almost any other quadruped. It reminded me of the *arum crinitum*, or carrion-plant, a native of this country, the offensive smell of which so effectually pre-

serves its blossoms from the rude grasp of the invader. Nearly about this time, I encountered, if not danger, at least much suffering, from the bite of the scorpion, an insect exceedingly numerous in this country. I was eagerly engaged in drying a flower between the leaves of a book, which I carried with me for the purpose, when, happening to turn it over, I perceived one of these dangerous insects, that had introduced itself, by some means, into the knapsack which I carried at my back: and would, in the next instant, provoked by the pressure I was using, in all probability, have stung me. Another day, my too eager pursuit after a splendid butterfly, had nearly, also, led me into some inconvenience; as I did not perceive, till my guide came running to me, the tree-serpent, so called, from its lodging principally on the boughs of trees. It is about two yards long, and nearly an inch thick. It winds itself round the branches of a tree, and darts at whatever living creature comes within its reach.

Often was I amused and pleased with seeing the varieties of the wild cat, darting along between the woods, running up the large trees, that surrounded us, or springing with agility, and even gracefulness, from the massy boughs.

At last, however, we drew near to a Hottentot

kraal or village, consisting of about twenty or more huts, of an elliptical figure ; being formed by fixing several large sticks in the ground, bent at the top so as to describe an arch, and covered with mats sewed together. The only opening was at the entrance, which, although not more than three feet high, answered the triple purpose of door, window, and chimney.

We were met near the kraal or village, by a Hottentot, who appeared to have just returned from inspecting some cattle in a neighbouring pasture. He was of a moderate stature ; though, perhaps, among Europeans, he would have been designated as short. He was straight, and evidently free from any personal deformity ; except, indeed, that his head and eyes seemed rather large in proportion to the rest of his body. His lips were thick, his teeth of an ivory whiteness, and his nose very flat. But this latter peculiarity we afterwards found to be the effect of an art exercised on the infant Hottentots ; so different are the ideas of beauty in various countries.

Round the neck of the young savage was suspended a small, greasy bag, containing a pipe and tobacco, with a piece of wood burnt at both ends, which I afterwards learnt was considered as an amulet against necromancy ; whilst on his left

arm were three rings of ivory, to shield him against the attacks of his enemies.

Not only his scanty apparel, but his whole body was smeared with a mixture of mutton fat, or marrow, mixed with soot; and in his hand he carried a stick of about a foot long, with the bushy tail of a wild cat tied at the end; which not only served to wipe off the dust from his body, but answered the delicate purpose of our pocket handkerchief.

As he was not only a man of acknowledged bravery, but also remarkable for his attention to his personal decorations, he had tied to his hair several bladders of wild beasts which he had slain, and which were distended with air; but his hair also was lavishly powdered with a pulverized herb called buchu.

My guide instantly presented the Hottentot with some brass buttons and plates, and also some pieces of looking-glass, with which he was highly delighted, and he led the way to his kraal. We afterwards found that this introduction was necessary, in consequence, not only of the number of dogs that surrounded the huts, but also on account of the sort of fighting oxen called backcleyers, which being taught to perform the necessary manœuvres, are employed in war, like elephants

formerly in other nations, and are kept to assist the dogs in guarding the herds.

On entering into the hut, the furniture of which consisted only of a few earthen vessels for holding their milk, butter, or water, we were presented by the young savage with some milk; and were given to understand that some meat, which was then roasting, would soon be offered to us. The manner in which this operation is conducted is singular, being performed by fixing a large flat stone in the ground, and kindling a fire upon it, which remains till the stone is thoroughly heated, when, the fire and ashes being removed, the flesh is placed on the stone, and covered with another of the same size; a fire is then made, as well round the meat as upon the stone which covers it, and in this situation the whole remains till the flesh is sufficiently roasted. Few of them, however, are at this trouble; and, indeed, they seem more generally to prefer raw meat, which they tear to pieces with their fingers, and eat so voraciously, that the very sight of them is sufficient to nauseate a delicate stomach.

Nor was the process of making butter, which was going on at the other end of the hut, and some of which we were afterwards offered, less disgusting. Instead of a churn, they use the skin

of some animal, formed into a kind of sack, the hair being turned inwards : into this they pour the milk, and, closing up the bag, briskly agitate it till the butter is produced, which they put into pots, with the hairs and other filth adhering to it, and keep it for anointing their bodies, or for sale to the Europeans, as the Hottentots never eat any themselves. Uncleanly, however, as these people certainly are in their way of living, they are subject to very few diseases, and frequently enjoy sound constitutions to a very advanced age.

In the hut, I noticed some girls of about eleven years of age, round whose legs, from the knee to the ankle, were worn rings of bulrushes; and my guide told me that they were customary ornaments till their twelfth year, when they are laid aside, and their places supplied by others, composed of small slips of sheep or calves' skins, the hairy side being singed. Some of the women wear a vast number of these rings, which are often as smooth and as hard as wood, and are kept from slipping over their heels, by wrappers of leather, or rushes, round their ankles. These rings at once protect them from the briers and thorns, and serve as a distinction of sex. Besides which, they are said to be used as food, in cases of absolute necessity : on which occasions they are taken off,

bruised between two stones, and devoured with great avidity.

During my limited stay in this place, the wife of my host presented him with a son, which was rubbed over with cow-dung, that was dried by the sun, wind, and fire. In the mean time, some of the women gathered a few stalks of Hottentot figs, which were bruised between two stones to express the juice, and washed the child's limbs with this mixture, to give vigour and activity to them. It was again laid out to dry; and the moisture being entirely absorbed or evaporated, they besmeared the child again with sheep's fat, or butter, and powdered it with buchu, which they imagined contained some very salutary qualities.

I was not present at any wedding among the tribe, though I heard that it was attended with some singular ceremonies; but a funeral that took place the day previous to my leaving, gave me an insight into another of their ceremonies. The relations of the deceased, immediately that the event was announced, set up such a dreadful screaming, shouting, and clapping of hands, that I was almost stunned. The corpse was immediately wrapped up in the *crossa* of the deceased, and, after an interval of six hours, all the men and women of the village assembled before the entrance of the

hut, the men forming one circle, and the women another, clapping their hands, and exclaiming, "Bo, bo, bo;" that is to say, "Father, father, father."

As the corpse was not suffered to be taken out of the door, they uncovered the hut; and the chief, or captain of the village, having nominated the bearers, they took the body in their arms, and set out for the grave, attended by a numerous concourse of both sexes, whose distorted attitudes, and universal exclamations of "bo, bo, bo," had to me, I confess, rather a ludicrous than a melancholy effect. Having deposited the corpse in the cleft of a rock, (occasionally it is the den of some wild beast,) they filled up the grave with mould, stones, and sticks, to prevent the body from being devoured by wild animals.

I then returned with the people to the village, when, squatting down in two circles, they again renewed their lamentations, till silence was proclaimed by two friends of the deceased. These old men, having stepped out of the hut after giving this order, returned in a few minutes, and taking a handful of ashes, they strewed them gently over the company.

As the deceased was a rich man, and had left plenty of cattle, his heir killed a sheep, as did also

several of his nearest relations, in order to make a feast for the people ; and I understood that the heir was obliged to wear, till it dropped off, the caul of the sheep, which he placed round his neck, well powdered with buchu. The other relations also decorated themselves with the cauls of the sheep they had killed, which, indeed, is the only mourning worn amongst the Hottentots. I had observed amongst these people, some individuals whose heads were shaved in narrow stripes, alternately smooth and hairy ; and I now found that they were not in circumstances capable of giving an entertainment on the late death of a near relative, and had therefore followed the plan adopted in that case, to express their sorrow.

As my visit was in the midst of summer, I did not see the dress worn by the men in wet or cold weather ; but I found that they then wore caps made of lambs' skins, with mantles, called crossas, thrown over their shoulders. The crossas of the opulent are composed of the skins of tigers or wild cats, but those of the common people are of sheepskin. These serve them for coverings by day, as well as for beds at night, as they sleep on nothing else ; also for winding-sheets after their decease ; for they are tied up in these mantles, and precipitated into their graves. They secure their legs,

when they stir from home, with a sort of leather spatterdashes ; and their feet with a kind of sandals, cut out of the raw hide of an elephant or ox.

The better sort of females constantly wore spiral caps, made of the skins of wild beasts. They had commonly, I observed, two crossas, between which they fastened their children when they suckled them, the infant just appearing above their shoulders. They also covered their hips with another crossa, which was always made of sheep-skin.

I found that both sexes smoked tobacco. Indeed, their attachment to this plant was astonishing ; since, rather than be without it, I have known them part with nearly all they possessed. Nay more, the desire to obtain it actually overcame their indolence ; and I have seen them work a whole day for half an ounce, and think their labour well compensated. They are also extremely fond of a plant called dacha, which they mixed with their tobacco, and smoked till they became intoxicated. But their passion for a root called kanna, which I have since apprehended to be the ginseng of China, is, if possible, still more ardent. This, indeed, is esteemed by them the most exhilarating and restorative medicine in the world, and the smallest chip of it is regarded as a valuable present.

I was present at some of their religious ceremonies, happening to be there at the full moon; and, in spite of their acknowledgment of the true God, I found that they worshipped the moon as an inferior visible deity. At this time, indeed, they expressed their adoration of it, by attitudes and tones of voice expressive of veneration, crying, "We salute thee! Thou art welcome! Grant us fodder for our cattle, and milk in abundance;" and these and similar addresses were frequently attended with singing, dancing, shouting, and clapping of hands, which lasted as long as they could see their deity.

It is indeed a singular circumstance, that whilst, as I before said, they confess a Supreme Intelligence, they have no institution or festival that has any immediate reference to Him; their adorations being solely paid to the deities whom they confess to be subordinate to the First Cause. I spoke, through the medium of the interpreter, to one of the most sensible amongst them, on this inconsistency. He replied, "That their first parents had so heinously offended the God of gods, that they had exposed them to his curse, and shut his ears to their prayers."

Deceased persons, eminent for their valour or other qualifications, were, I discovered, honoured

with a religious veneration, and several mountains, fields, rivers, and woods, were consecrated to their memory ; and I was not a little surprised, one day, at finding the Hottentot with whom I was walking, stand still to contemplate, as my guide assured me, the virtues of the person to whose memory the field was dedicated, and to implore his protection through life. This offering up prayers to the departed, has given an idea to many, as well as myself, that they believe in a state of future existence ; but I could never understand that they had any notion of rewards or punishments. Though I know that, through fear, they offer sacrifices to an unpropitious deity, whom they called Tanquoa, and whom, my guide informed me, they described as an ill-natured, vexatious spirit, whose malice deprived them of rest ; who was the father of mischief, the source of affliction, and the inspirer of witchcraft.

But I think you must now be tired of the description of a people, who, though they are curious in their habits, are by no means interesting ; and, indeed, on my return to the ship, I found that I had quite extended the limits of my ramble to the utmost, since we were to sail on the following day. I, however, contrived after my return, which was early in the day, to ascend the Table Mountain ;

at the summit of which, after a fatiguing and tedious walk of three hours, I arrived, but the view from it by no means paid me for my trouble.

I found, on my entering the ship, some of the younger sailors amusing themselves by experiments with the torpedo, or cramp-fish, which is of a roundish form. The head, I noticed, did not project from the body; the eyes were small; and the mouth, shaped like a crescent, had above it two small holes. The back was of an orange-colour, the belly white, the tail slender, and the skin in every part smooth and destitute of scales. There was nothing remarkable in its appearance; and yet, when a gentleman offered me his stick, and bade me touch the fish with it, I instantly felt my limbs so cramped and benumbed, as to be unable to move them for at least two minutes; and it was nearly half an hour, ere I quite recovered from the effects. I now, in my turn, prevailed on some of my friends to make some further experiments with it. I placed the torpedo on a table, on a wet napkin. Round another table stood five persons, insulated; and two brass wires were suspended from the ceiling of the cabin by silken strings. One of the wires rested by one end on the wet napkin, and the other end was immersed in a basin full of water, placed on a second table, on

which stood four other basins, likewise full of water. The first person put a finger of one hand into the basin in which the wire was immersed, and a finger of the other into the second ; and so on, successively, till all the five persons communicated with each other, by the water in the basins. In the last basin, one end of the second wire was dipped, and with the other end I touched the back of the torpedo ; when the five persons experienced a shock, though not very strong ; I, not being in the line of conduction, felt nothing.

Nature, some philosophers are of opinion, has endued the torpedo with this wonderful property, as a means, not only of defence against voracious fish, which, by a single touch, are deprived of all possibility of seizing their prey ; but that, by concealing itself in the mud, and seizing such fish as are carelessly swimming about, it may make a ready prize of them.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM the moment of our leaving the Cape till our arrival in Anjere roads, my time was very pleasantly occupied in arranging my botanical and other specimens, and in keeping a journal of past occurrences.

On our reaching this station we weighed anchor, and, on the following day, arrangements were made for our departure to Batavia. As I and one of my friends were anxious to take drawings of the places through which we passed, and to add to our collection of natural curiosities, we proceeded in doolies towards Seeram.

“Now, what are doolies?” I think I hear you inquire. Why, they are conveyances, somewhat longer than a palanquin, with a raised penthouse roof, built of bamboo. They take little time in constructing, and, though sufficiently capacious, are not heavy. The poles are fixed in the sides, and not in the centre, as in a palanquin; and are

either an entire piece, or separate, according to the number of bearers employed.

In this manner we passed through a wild, picturesque country, exhibiting a great variety of trees of different species ; for not only is the palm-tree in great varieties to be seen, but the sugar-tree, from whence the sugar used in Java is expressed ; and plantations of bamboo are abundant. There are, indeed, in this country large forests of bamboos ; one of which is said to reach fifty miles, forming so thick a canopy, like Gothic arches, that the light of the sun is almost entirely excluded at noon, whilst in its dark recesses lurk the leopard and the tiger.

Nor do the purposes to which this wood is applied, render its abundance less desirable than necessary. Houses are built of it, and articles of furniture, for almost every domestic purpose, are constructed of it ; and so neatly and beautifully are they made, that I question whether the most refined civilization could introduce any thing that would answer the purpose so well.

At Chittagong, where our little party rested, we were pleased to find that it was market-day, because it gave us an opportunity of observing the neatness with which the different commodities, such as the betel-leaf, the areca-nut, sweetmeats,

cooling beverages, and fish ready dressed, were arranged, together with some coarse jewellery, and common cloths, intended for kubayas, or that part of the native dress which is rolled round the body, and comes down between the legs.

Proceeding onwards, we were struck with the bamboo bridges, covered with mats, which we every where observed. Their lightness at first gives an air of insecurity, but this is by no means the case; and in a country subject, as this is, to the continual swellings of the small streams from heavy showers, no other erections would be equally permanent.

Arrived at Seeram, we made a short stay there; and then proceeded forwards to Batavia, where the rest of our companions had previously arrived.

The town of Batavia has been so long noted for its insalubrity, that few of the principal or wealthy inhabitants reside in it, but occupy houses in the suburbs and the vicinity.

There is always something to me, in the slow, muddy progress of a canal, that imparts an air of dreariness to the scene; and though here, the quantity of vegetation in its vicinity deprived it of its general character, yet the whole appearance impresses a stranger with the idea of its being an unhealthy spot. However, I believe the suburbs

are now exempt from the former opinion, and the charge is confined to the town itself.

The Dutch have imported their national peculiarities to this place. Still they are found to linger in the apartment over the canals which intersect every street; still is the cheroot their most usual companion; whilst the figures of birds and beasts, and occasionally heathen gods and goddesses, which adorn the villas of the most wealthy, are as remarkable for their number as their curious assortment. They certainly pursue a system decidedly opposed to health, in excluding the external-air, and in closing, not only their windows, but their blinds, on the supposition, that checked perspiration would be dangerous, and that it is necessary to keep up an even temperature of air; forgetting, meanwhile, the hurtful tendency of a loaded atmosphere, and the increased susceptibility to disease, from such close confinement.

I looked in vain, among the languid countenances of the ladies of Batavia, for the rosy hue that adorns the faces of my own lovely countrywomen; and even the magnificent muslin robes, spangled with gold and silver; the profusion of jewels in the hair; the black tresses, anointed with the oil of the cocoa-nut, and sometimes adorned with chaplets, could not rival in my

eyes, the simple elegance of an English costume. But these dresses were only worn when they went abroad to pay visits, or took an airing in their carriages. At home they wore only a red, checkered cotton gown, descending to the ankles, with large, wide sleeves; and the hair fastened with a silver bodkin, and simply platted. I, with one or two other gentlemen, went to pay a morning visit to a native lady. On the floor, at her feet, was seated a female slave, handsomely habited, holding in her hands, her mistress' gold box, divided into compartments, which contained areca-nut, cardamom-seeds, pepper, tobacco, and slacked lime, all mixed together in due proportions, and rolled within a leaf of betel, constituting a masticatory of a very pungent taste, and in general use. She kindly gave us an invitation to breakfast; and at an early hour, we found tea, coffee, chocolate, fish, and even flesh spread upon the table. We had but just finished this part of the meal, when the gentleman of the house invited us to the portico before the door of the great hall, where pipes and tobacco were presented to each of us; and a bright brass jar, to answer the purposes of a spittoon, was placed before us. I am no smoker; and from Madeira, claret, gin, Dutch small beer, and English porter,

I turned at this unusual time, with disgust ; but when, immediately preceding dinner, two men slaves handed round glasses of Madeira, I found I could not refuse without incurring the charge of affectation. They were followed by three female slaves ; one with a silver jar, containing rose water, to wash with ; a second with a silver basin and low cover, to receive the water after being used ; and the third with towels for wiping the hands. Dinner was then served. It consisted of a number of dishes. A band of music played at a little distance, and several female slaves waited upon us. Coffee immediately followed ; and we then were invited to retire to a bed, consisting of a mattress, bolster, pillow, and chintz counterpane, but no sheets ; a muslin nightcap, and long, loose, cotton gown being handed us. About six, we rose and dressed, and joined the ladies of the family, who had not before made their appearance ; we then took a very agreeable ride with them, in the cool of the evening, to the medical garden of this place.

Here I was gratified with a sight of that beautiful vegetable the nutmeg-tree. The stem, with a smooth, brown bark, rises perfectly straight. Its strong and numerous branches proceed regularly from it, in an oblique direction, upwards. They bear large, oval leaves, pendulous from them, some

a foot in length. The upper and outer surface of the leaf is smooth, and of a deep, agreeable green. The under and inner surface is marked with a strong nerve, in the middle of the leaf, from the footstalk to the point; and from this middle nerve, others proceed obliquely, towards the point and edges of the leaf. But what distinguishes most the inner surface, is its uniform bright brown colour, without the least intermixture of green, and, as if strewed all over with a fine brown powder. The whole leaf is characterized by its fragrant odour, sufficiently denoting the fruit which the tree produces. This fruit, when fresh, is about the size and figure of the common nectarine. It consists of an outward rind, between which and the inward shell, is found a reticulated membrane, or divided skin, which, when dried, is called the mace. What is known by the name of nutmeg, is the kernel within the shell, and is soft in its original state.

The clove-tree next attracted my notice, with its small, narrow, oval, smooth, tender, and aromatic leaves. The cloves are the unripe fruit; or, perhaps, more properly, the cups of the unopened flowers. The tree is one of those, the flower of which is produced above the rudiments of the fruit. The ripe fruit, sometimes brought

into Europe under the name of *antophyllus*, is marked on the top with the remains of the blossom. It is about the size and shape of an olive, and contains, under a thin, blackish shell, a hard kernel of the same colour, which has a deep, longitudinal seam on one side. The cloves are said to be cured by exposing them to smoke, and afterward drying them in the sun.

I examined the camphor-tree, whose leaves are not unlike those of the clove-tree, only stronger ; and, together with every other part of the tree, smell of that substance. On inquiry, I learnt it is extracted by boiling in common water the root, trunk, branches, and leaves ; when the camphor, rising to the surface of the boiling water, is easily separated from it. I distinguished the cinnamon-tree, not only by the three nerves, which always regularly divide the surface of its oval leaf, but also from the fragrant smell which is diffused over every part of the tree.

The pepper, growing in clusters like grapes, but only smaller, is found on a creeping plant like a vine, supported on a living tree. Its leaves of a pungent taste, and of a dark green colour, resembling in shape those of the hazel. Near to it, in this excellent collection, was that other species of pepper-plant that furnishes the leaf of the betel I

have so often mentioned ; and which is not only chewed by itself, but serves also for the enclosure of slices, or bits of the areca : hence erroneously called the betel-nut. I have also spoken of the areca-nut, so commonly used here ; and must, therefore, inform you, that the tree which produces it, is amongst the smallest of the tribe of palms, but comes next in beauty to the mountain cabbage-tree of the West Indies. The diameter, however, of the trunk of the former, seldom exceeds four inches, or its height twelve feet. The nut, when dried, has some similitude, in form and taste, to the common nutmeg.

Though, perhaps, it may be thought, that the number and variety of people that I daily met with in Batavia, must have been extremely amusing, yet, as I was desirous of visiting the more distant parts of the island, and the inhabitants of the Ten'-ger Mountains having been much spoken of, I determined to bend my course thitherward, knowing that they were the most ancient of the Javan race ; and, as my route was a varied one, instead of leading you on step by step, I shall notice the most remarkable objects that I met with in my progress, ere I reached the place of my destination ; for, if you feel like me, you would rather hear of the natural productions of a country,

and the characters and manners of the inhabitants, than the name of every insignificant village, or the distance between each, or the exact line of road, laid down with all the minuteness and accuracy of an itinerary.

Java is, indeed, a magnificent island, and, unlike most other tropical countries, is abundant in water. The soil, in many parts, resembles the rich garden-mould of England, and, when exposed to inundations, bears one heavy and one light crop every year. From the tops of the mountains to the sea-shore, it possesses six distinct climates, each of which furnishes an indigenous botany.

There is not a plant upon the globe that could not be cultivated in Java, and the indigenous fruits are equal to those of any continent. It was here that I gathered some of that curious plant called the flower of the air, because it has no root, and is never fixed to the earth, but twines round a dry tree, or a sterile rock. Each shoot produces two or three flowers like a lily, white, transparent, and odoriferous ; and, as it is capable of being transported two or three hundred miles, I wreathed some round a stick which I carried, and was delighted to see it vegetate as I journeyed on.

Here too I met with the *nepenthes distillatoria* of which I had often read, and which is remarka-

ble for having a small vegetable bag attached to the base of its leaves. This bag is covered with a lid, which moves on a strong fibre, answering the purpose of a hinge. When the dew rises, or rains descend, the lid opens; when the bag is saturated, the lid falls, and closes so tightly, that no evaporation can take place. The moisture imbibed cherishes the seed, and is gradually absorbed into the body of the plant.

Nor is it in flowers alone that Java excels. Not only roses and violets scent the air, but raspberries grow wild in profusion; pine-apples are planted in fields, and are carried in heaps, like turnips, and sold for considerably less than a penny a-piece. The mangosteen or mungustan, the most delicious of all fruits, also flourishes here. It bears fruit and flowers at the same time, is about the size of a nonpareil apple, and consists of a dark red, thick, and firm rind, containing from five to seven seeds, of which a white pulp, that covers them, is the only part that is eaten. The fruit rests in a green calyx, and its top bears a corona. Its flavour has a little sweetness, with a mixture of acid, and it melts in the mouth like whipped cream.

On my route, I fell in with a native Javanese of some rank, and he was represented to me as a

man of considerable beauty, according to the taste of his countrymen. He was muscular and well-proportioned, though beneath the middle stature, undoubtedly ; and there was a certain expression of mildness and benevolence, that, perhaps, prevented my giving him, according to my European notions, the character of ugliness, to which, however, he certainly made a near approach. His nose was flat, and his mouth, which was enormously wide, displayed two rows of teeth so extremely black, either from want of cleanliness, or the immoderate use of the betel, as to render him almost disgusting in appearance. He was attended by men dressed in scarlet, with bowl-shaped coverings of basket-work on their heads, worn principally by coachmen and horsemen, but occasionally by people of all ranks. The gentleman himself had on a pair of European boots ; but the handkerchief tied round the head, the tunic, and the cloth wrapped round the loins and the lower parts of the body, under which were distinctly visible his trowsers, marked his station, and gave me his characteristic uniform. He had also a kris, or dagger, a weapon which neither a Javanese nor a Malay is ever seen without ; and which is not only valued for its antiquity, but descends as an heir-loom in families.

Nor was the countenance of the women much more pleasing ; though I did not think it quite so disgusting as that of the men, with the exception of the teeth, which are equally stained and discoloured ; and which, whatever other charms they might have possessed, would certainly have robbed them of much loveliness. But such is the caprice of taste ; for these ladies are as ambitious to paint their teeth of a jet black, except the two middle ones, which they cover with gold leaf, as any of the belles of Europe are to purify and whiten theirs.

As hospitality is enjoined in Java, not only by a great variety of precepts, but by constant practice, it is not to be wondered at, that, in entering the abodes of these interesting people, I was always treated with friendship and attention. “ It is not enough,” says their book of institutes, “ that a man should place food before his guest : he is bound to do more. He should render his meat palatable, by kind words and manners ; he should soothe him after his journey, and make his heart glad while he partakes of refreshment ;” and, conscious of their integrity, and sensible of their love of truth, to which their adherence is remarkable, I invariably, though a stranger amongst them, felt a confidence and security that I should not have

known amongst other oriental nations. They were, indeed, a gentle, cheerful, intelligent, and well-disposed people; free from reserve, and unacquainted with that prejudice which difference in religious sentiments, unhappily, introduces in too many other countries.

I was often, whilst wandering among them, struck with the tractability of the Javanese buffalo; so untamable with a stranger, and yet here so domesticated, that, like the Arabian courser, it will allow itself to be guided by the smallest child.

As I was passing a grave-yard, in my route, I was surprised to hear the sounds of merriment issue from it; and instantly turning into it, I found a party of pleasure seated there, enjoying themselves among the tombs of their ancestors.

On inquiry, they instantly told me, that they believed the spirits of their dead relatives to be sensible of their happiness; that they had repaired thither, that they might be partakers of it; and that they had not only invited them to share it, but had placed seats for their accommodation, as if they were still alive. I could not but smile at their superstition, though less lamentable in its effect than that which heathenism generally casts over the mind. Leaving them, therefore, to their amusement, I proceeded to examine the ornaments of the place.

Every description of flowers was to be found in this blooming cemetery. Samboja, or kamboja-trees, were planted by the sides of the graves, and sulasi flowers strewed over them several times in the year. These flowers have a sweet scent, and are reared exclusively for that purpose. In another part of the same grave-yard, I found an image of leaves, ornamented with variegated flowers, in the human form, supported by the clothes of the deceased. Before this figure was placed a pot of incense, into which were thrown garlands of flowers, which were burning; and around it I observed a small party of the friends of the deceased, sitting at a feast, and invoking a blessing on themselves, their houses, and lands.

Another day's journey brought me to the object of my research. I found it to consist of about forty villages, the houses of which differed very much, in structure and materials, from those of other Javanese buildings; and, instead of being shaded by trees, they are built on open and spacious terraces. Their abodes were certainly in the most romantic part of the island, and each of their villages has its chief, who is selected by the inhabitants, and four priests.

I inquired into the nature of their faith and worship, and found that it was Hindu; that the

duty of their priest consisted in preserving the records of the village, and their history of the origin of the world, in disclosing the attributes of Deity, and in performing the duties of their religion.

I asked what punishments they attached to the crimes of theft and adultery. They replied, that they had no punishments, for those crimes were unknown in the mountains; and that if any one acted in an improper manner, he was reprov'd for it by the chief of the village, and that was sufficient punishment. Oh! how I longed that the pure light of the gospel should still farther enlighten the minds of this benighted people, and that they should "see this star in the east and worship it." The number of this tribe, I understood, amounted to about one thousand two hundred. They marry amongst themselves, and are extremely anxious to preserve their purity of blood. I left them, impressed with sentiments of regard and admiration of their simplicity, and again retraced my steps towards Batavia.

The Javanese love of trees, and their taste for the cultivation of their gardens, certainly add much to the effect of the scenery. This love may be observed in the number of cocoas which they plant; for whenever a native has a child born, he immediately plants a tree of this kind, which adds

a circle every year to its bark, indicating the age of the tree, and also that of the child, who, in consequence, regards his cocoa with affection throughout his life.

The peasantry of Java have, indeed, in many districts, gardens attached to their cottages, which are exempt from contributions of every kind. In the regency of Hedu, I understood, they were so extensive as to constitute one-tenth of the district. The cotters not only plant these gardens with vegetables, but experience no small delight in sitting under the shade of their trees with their families. Some of these cottages are so luxuriantly embowered, with foliage of evergreens, that they cannot be discerned, till a traveller stands at the very door; and so beautiful do these groups make the country, that the clumps that diversify the most skilfully arranged park, can bear no comparison with them in picturesque effect.

On my return to Batavia, I found that, during my absence, a gentleman of our vessel had made an expedition to the district of Sundha, where manners and customs prevail that bear no very distant resemblance to the patriarchal ages. The villages constitute detached societies, under a priest or chief. Harmony prevails entire in these communities, though one village occasionally disputes

with another. Great deference is paid to age; the commands of parents and superiors are strictly obeyed. They hold each other in great esteem, pride themselves upon good or great deeds performed by their kindred or neighbours, and have a great veneration for the tombs, ashes, and memories of their ancestors. They are honest, ingenuous, and kind-hearted; faithful in their engagements, and extremely cleanly in their persons. Hospitality is not only enjoined by many striking precepts, but zealously practised; and they are extremely susceptible of the shame arising from a dishonest or unjust action. They rise before the sun, go soon after into the rice-fields with their buffaloes, return home about ten, bathe, and take their morning's meal. During the heat of the day, they occupy themselves, under the shade of trees, in making or mending their implements of husbandry, or in forming baskets. About four, they again go to the fields with their buffaloes; at six, they return and take their supper. Then they form themselves into small parties, and the whole village exhibits a picture of quiet enjoyment.

Such was the portrait drawn by my friend. I wished that it had been in my power to extend my visit thitherward, but that I knew to be impossible. I must, however, not omit mentioning to you a

natural curiosity, that I met with in my tour ; I mean the edible swallow, which is said to form its nest of its own secretions. Its glands are formed in a manner peculiar to its species. A membranous tube* surrounds the duct of each gastric gland, which, after projecting a little way into the gullet, splits into separate portions, like the petals of a flower. The nest which it forms, has, from time immemorial, been an article of commerce between Java and China. It is esteemed a great luxury ; but whether from prejudice, or want of epicurean palate, I must confess that they were too gelatinous and insipid to suit me, even with the addition of eggs and shrimps. These birds are supposed to live principally on flies, gnats, musquitoes, and other insects. The nests adhere to each other, and to the sides of the caves in the cliffs, where they build, mostly in rows, without any break or interruption. They were flying about in considerable numbers round the rocks, where I observed them ; and I was told that they were small grey birds, with white bellies ; but their flight is so quick, that they escaped the shot fired at them. Their wide opening beaks are particularly adapted for catching their food. Their principal enemy is the kite, which

* See Raffles' History of Java.

often intercepts them in their passage to and from the caverns, which are generally surrounded with rocks of grey limestone or white marble.

The nests are placed in horizontal rows at different depths, from fifty to five hundred feet. The colour and value of the nests depend on the quantity and quality of the insects caught, and perhaps also on the situation where they are built. Their value is chiefly determined by the uniform fineness and delicacy of their texture; those that are white and transparent being most esteemed, and often fetching in China their weight in silver. These nests are a considerable object of traffic among the Javanese, and many are employed in it from their infancy.

The birds having spent nearly two months in preparing their nests, lay each two eggs, which are hatched in about fifteen days. When the young birds become fledged, it is thought time to seize upon their nests, which is done regularly thrice a year, and is effected by means of ladders of bamboo and reeds, by which the people descend into the cavern; but when it is very deep, rope-ladders are preferred. This operation is attended with much danger, and several break their necks in the attempt. The inhabitants of the mountains generally employed in it, begin always by sacrificing

a buffalo; which custom is constantly observed by the Javanese, on the eve of every extraordinary enterprise. They also pronounce some prayers, anoint themselves with sweet-scented oil, and smoke the entrance of the cavern with gum benjamin. Near some of these caverns, a tutelar goddess is worshipped, whose priest burns incense, and lays his protecting hand upon every person preparing to descend into the cavern. A flambeau is carefully prepared at the same time, with a gum which exudes from a tree growing in the vicinity, and is not easily extinguished by fixed air or subterraneous vapours. The swallow which builds these nests, is described as not having its tail-feathers marked with white spots, which is a character attributed to it by Linnæus; and it is possible that there are two species or varieties of the swallow, the nests of which are alike valuable.

Before I leave Batavia, I must mention that I saw in the governor's house there, (and indeed it was the most familiar bird,) the crown bird. He had also two cassowaries, which, though long in his possession, and having the appearance of tameness, sometimes betrayed the fierceness of their nature, attacking with their strong bill those who approached too near them.

CHAPTER VIII.

AFTER leaving Batavia we sailed along by the island of Sumatra, where forests of mangroves extended their roots in a curved direction into the water, from different parts of the trunk ; forming arches to some distance, until they reach the bottom, covered by the sea. Flashes of almost intermitting lightning were seen nightly, though but little thunder was heard ; whilst the phosphoric light, perceived upon striking with the oar, or touching a wave with the hand, was not more brilliant than the sparks emitted by the myriads of fire-flies on shore, that lined the coast. Nothing worth notice occurred to us as we passed the several other islands, till we reached Turon, situated in Cochin China ; and where I shall only detain you a few moments, just to tell you that, on going on shore, we were extremely amused with seeing the method practised in playing at shuttlecock. Instead of using a battledoor, as is the custom you know, in England, or making use of the hand, and





arm, they stood seven or eight in a circle, and, after running a short race, and springing from the floor, they met the descending shuttlecock with the sole of their foot, and drove it up again with force high into the air. The game was kept up with much animation, and seldom did the players miss their stroke, or give it a wrong direction. The shuttlecock was made of a piece of dried skin rolled round, and bound with strings. Into this skin were inserted three feathers, spreading out at top, but so near to each other, where they were stuck into the skin, as to pass through the holes, little more than a quarter of an inch square, which were always made in the centre of Cochin copper coins. We made one or two awkward attempts at the game, not only to our own confusion, but much to the amusement of the natives. The feet, indeed, assist, amongst these ingenious people, as auxiliaries to the hands, in the exercise of many trades, particularly that of boat-building.

In steering our course towards the "Celestial Empire," as it is termed, we passed the islands of Chu-san, where we saw, for the first time, the celebrated little feet of the Chinese women. Fashion may reconcile to the eye of a native this barbarous and ungraceful deformity ; but to a foreigner, nothing can appear more preposterous—more

detrimental to health—more opposed to real beauty. But I must not detain you with a narrative of every event, or of every scene that arrested our progress ; but shall only describe to you a curious punishment we saw inflicted one morning, when near the place of our destination, and then hasten with you to the harbour of Tien-sing, situated in China, where we weighed anchor, and remained some days ere our final disembarkation.

This punishment was called face-slapping, and appeared to us extremely cruel. The hair of the unfortunate culprit was twisted till his eyes almost started from their sockets ; whilst the executioner, with a short piece of hide, about an inch wide, much to the amusement, apparently, of himself and the spectators, inflicted with it several blows on his cheeks, which appeared to be very much distended. We understood the punishment was inflicted for theft ; and though we, of course, reprobated the crime, we could not but feel for the sufferings of the thief.

It was evening when we entered Tien-sing, the evening too, of the feast of lanterns, and every house, every temple, even the very shores of the sea, were hung with lanterns of every size and hue ; shedding their illumination on all the scene, and displaying, on the transparent silk of which

they were composed, devices of flowers, animals, and various other paintings. In some of them were placed lamps, in others wax candles; and the light they gave came to us with a softness, yet brilliancy, I cannot forget; while their fixed streamers of satin and of silk waved in the evening breeze, and now and then curled round the curious piece of wood-work that was placed over the top. Some lanterns were also composed of horn, curiously cemented together, so as to appear of one piece. They are so clear, that I at first mistook them for glass: some of them are about two feet in diameter, and in the form of a cylinder, with the ends rounded off, and the edges meeting in the point to which the suspending cords were tied. Around us were ranged a vast number of fishing-boats, each displaying its little light; whilst the sound of the gong (produced by striking with wooden mallets circular rimed plates of copper, mixed with tin or zinc, to render it sonorous) accompanying the offering to the tutelary deity of each vessel, produced an effect altogether novel and striking.

I rose the next day with the first beams of the sun, and, on coming on deck, I was surprised to hear the sounds of merriment at so early an hour. I soon found, however, that it came from some

young midshipmen, who were watching the method of fishing as pursued by the Chinese, and were as much interested in the actions of the birds employed, as they probably would have been at a chase in England. Having watched the men make several turns with their boats, we suddenly saw them beat the water with one of their oars, and instantly, to our surprise, we observed the birds perched on the prow of each vessel disperse themselves, plunge into the river, and seize by the middle what fish they could; then rising to the surface, carry its captive to the boat to which it belonged. But what was the most diverting to the younger part of our crew, was the assistance which these well-trained birds rendered to each other. When the prize taken was rather too large for one to secure, another of its comrades would then fly towards its overpowered friend, take the prey by the tail, whilst the other supported the head, and thus bear the burden to their master, which he received. They prevent the captor from swallowing it, by means of a ring placed on the gullet for the purpose: this was removed when the fishing was done, and the birds received their allowance.

A few hours after this scene had finished, and just as our men had cleaned the decks, we perceiv-

ed a boat rowing towards us ; and on its reaching us, we were presented with some visiting tickets, composed of slips of paper of a red colour, eighteen inches long by six wide, on which were inscribed the names and titles of the mandarins, who were about to pay us the compliment of a call ; and shortly afterward we observed one of the flat-bottomed boats of the country making towards us.

In a sort of well, for there was no cabin, were seated two Chinese, in the costume of their country, black and violet dresses, with a small cap on their heads, in form of a tunnel, made of cane, lined with satin, and terminated by a tuft of red hair, with globular buttons or balls fixed in the cap. As these buttons are considered marks of rank, and as the wearers are divided into nine orders, I shall give them to you, in the precedence they assume in China : viz. ruby, red, worked coral, smooth coral, pale blue, dark blue, crystal, ivory, and gold ; and yet so far is the civil capacity estimated above the military, that I have witnessed more than once, a mandarin with only a white button, take the upper hand of the military coral.

Accustomed, as our sailors were, to the sea, it was with some difficulty that they restrained their risible muscles, when observing the fear that was painted in the countenance of our two guests, on

being placed in the chair that was to draw them up into the ship. But their vanity was flattered afterward, in understanding that the visitors were not a little gratified by the orderly conduct and martial appearance exhibited upon the deck of our vessel. They were sensible, intelligent men; and gesture often supplied an explanation, ere the expressions were rendered into the different languages by the interpreter. We paid them every attention that was in our power; and as the seat of honour in China is on the left hand, we endeavoured to distinguish the difference in their rank, and to place them accordingly. This, indeed, was easily done; since one was decorated with a blue button, and the other wore a ruby. The last gentleman, indeed, was graced with a peacock's feather; a mark of distinction bestowed upon him in consequence of his military services, which was presented to him by the emperor, with orders to wear it pendant from his bonnet. Sometimes three of these feathers, placed in an agate tube, and worn pendant, are conferred; and happy indeed is he, yes, thrice happy, who attains such a favoured eminence.

Our visitors did not leave us till late, and, after their departure, it being a beautiful night, we were again entertained with another method of

fishing, pursued at this late hour ; and, as I think you would be amused with the recital, I shall give it. On the edges of a long narrow boat, they nail in a sloping direction, a board of about two feet wide, which, from its shining hue, represents the colour of the sea at moonlight, the only time this method of fishing is practised. The fish, mistaking the plank for the water, throw themselves upon it, and fall into the boat, and thus the booty is secured. The following day was fixed for our party to land, and the barge, allotted to the embassy, having been prepared, the whole of the gentlemen occupying official situations, amongst which I was included, accompanied by a band of music, prepared to leave the ship.

As we were expected, every preparation had been made for our arrival, and the shore was literally lined with people, crowded together inconceivably close ; and I could not help remarking to Lieutenant Anson, that, whatever other propensities the Chinese might possess in common with the Europeans, in that of curiosity, at least, they were not deficient. Even the women, unmindful or forgetful of prohibitory edicts, flocked to the shore, and many a braided head, and many a tiny foot, did we discover amongst the multitude ; though I must do the young women the justice to

say, that they generally kept in the back-ground, contenting themselves with a glimpse, and leaving to the older matrons the pleasure of a full gaze. But pressed and packed together as they were, nothing but order was to be observed among them; and they had even the good nature to take off their straw hats, and stand with heads uncovered in a meridian sun, in order that those behind them might not have the view intercepted; a species of politeness which, I fear, would be looked for in vain amongst an English crowd. Arrived at the house of entertainment, tea was first served in the Chinese manner; namely, by cups, with covers, upon oblong saucers, and infused in each cup separately, the leaves remaining at the bottom of the cup. At dinner, a table was placed for every two persons, and twenty-four dishes were presented in trays, in quick succession, to each guest. The tables were small, but on each was a pyramid of dishes, or bowls, piled upon each other, and containing a vast variety; among which were custards and preserved fruits, which were really excellent; and birds' nests and the fins of sharks, which, to our English palates, were not very acceptable.

I shall not enter in the particulars of this day's entertainment, because public festivities give but

little insight into private habits ; and I am not so much writing a description of what the Chinese occasionally can do on particular occasions, as I am wishing to give you an insight into their general modes of life. I must, therefore, beg you to accompany me to the house of a Chinese merchant, where I, with a few of the officers and several of the natives, among whom was a mandarin of some rank, was invited to spend the day.

As the guests were introduced, the master of the house saluted one by one ; and taking a cup full of a liquid extracted from rice, he bowed to the company, and advancing to the front of the room, lifted up his hands and eyes to heaven ; after which he poured the contents of the cup on the ground, intending to express by this ceremony, that every good thing comes from that Power who reigns on high. After this, he took up a cup of wine, bowed to each guest, and placed it upon his table, a compliment which was instantly returned by an attempt to replace it on that of the person visited ; but Kwang-ta-jin, the name of our host, prevented it with the most courteous and attentive civility. He then placed two small, ivory sticks, adorned with gold and silver, and intended to serve the purposes of a knife and fork, parallel on the table, repeating it to each guest in his turn,

agreeably to his rank ; and, as each of the tables was finely ornamented and japanned, they made a noble and splendid appearance.

Considerable ceremony then took place respecting the first place ; but happily at length it was adjusted, and we sat down opposite to each other.

The moment we were seated, four or five comedians entered the apartment ; and, after striking their foreheads four times against the ground, they presented a list of fifty or sixty plays, which they were ready to perform immediately. The chief guest, the Mandarin Soo, to whom the choice of the play was referred, declined the honour several times ; till at length, after repeated entreaties, he consented to name one of these pieces for representation. The play accordingly commenced with instrumental music, which really resembled the bagpipes more than any thing I can describe, and quite delighted a young midshipman named Macgregor, though to my English ears it was truly discordant. Indeed, the entertainment itself, though it appeared highly amusing to the Chinese, appeared dull and languid to those who had, like us, been accustomed to behold characteristic dresses and the intervention of superb scenery, the latter of which was wanting.

During these exhibitions, Kwang-ta-jin knelt,

and entreated his guests to take the cup; on which, lifting it with both their hands, and bowing very low, they conducted it to their mouths, drinking with great deliberation. He then invited us to eat; and renewed the invitation every time a fresh dish was placed upon the table, or wine, &c. was offered. We remained at the table till tea was introduced, when we were conducted into another hall, and passed from thence into the gardens, where we remained till late at night.

Whatever others may think of these ceremonials, to me they appear destructive of that ease, freedom, and exemption from restraint, which give the highest relish to all rational society, and can alone captivate the mind which is capable of relishing the "feast of reason and the flow of soul."

Yet the Chinese behold them in quite a different point of view, and imagine they tend towards civilizing the people; promoting peace and order, from the humility and condescension they occasion; and, by excluding the use of coarse language and indelicate expressions, prevent the possibility of quarrels, disputes, and reproaches.

I cannot leave the account of this dinner, without telling you, that it consisted principally of meat divided into small, square morsels, mixed with vegetables, stewed together, and seasoned

with a variety of savoury sauces; though the swallows' nests and shark's fins were not omitted. We were also presented with cakes made from the buck-wheat, which freed entirely from bran, produces a very white flour. The method of reducing these cakes to the consistence of dumplings, is by steam, and is as follows: the cakes are arranged upon stages of lattice-work, fixed in the inside of a wooden frame, closed at every part, except the bottom. The frame, with its contents, is placed over a vessel of boiling water, the steam of which ascends through the lattice-work, but is sufficient only to surround the cake with a thin, soft crust. We really could not relish this substitute for bread; though, by slicing and toasting them, we afterward found them much improved.

The fruits and sweetmeats were presented in bowls, which are generally used in China instead of dishes: alternate layers of ice were placed together with the kernels of apricots and walnuts, or seeds and slices of the hairy roots of the lien-wha; and these dishes were at once palatable and refreshing.

Smoking tobacco mixed with odorous substances, seemed to be a favourite amusement in the leisure hours of the upper class; though sometimes opium was substituted, and at others, chewing the areca-nut seemed preferable.

I have spoken of the lien-wha, or *nymphæa nelumbo*, which was introduced at table. The leaf of this plant, quantities of which we saw in the lakes of this country, besides the other uses which nature had intended that part of vegetables, has, from its structure, growing entirely round the stalk, the advantage of defending the flower and fruit from any contact with the water, which might injure them.

The root of the lien-wha furnishes a stem which never fails to ascend in the water, from whatever depth, unless in case of a sudden inundation, until it attains the surface, where its leaf expands, rests, and swims upon it, and sometimes rises above it. It flowers are as beautiful and fragrant, as its seeds are grateful to the taste. The latter are somewhat of the size and form of an acorn, and of a taste more delicate than that of almonds. They are fixed, by the lower extremities, into the flat surface of a substance formed into the shape of a broad, inverted cone. The roots are not only eaten with ice, but laid up in salt and vinegar for winter use.

Among the varieties that presented themselves at Tien-sing nothing attracted our attention more than the pyramids of salt that were placed in an immense number, on each side of the bank of the

river Pei-ho, near to this place. The number of entire stacks was two hundred and twenty-two, besides several others that were incomplete. None of these stacks were less in length than two hundred feet, and some extended to six hundred. There were in each stack fourteen thousand bags, and each bag contained about two hundred pounds weight of salt. This article is a source of considerable revenue to the crown of China.

After having received orders respecting our future plans, we again received directions to proceed farther up the river Pei-ho; and as we passed some of the military stations, we had an opportunity of observing the dress and habits of the soldiery. Our men were not a little amused in seeing several companies, dressed in long yellow and black striped garments, literally covering them from head to foot, and intended to represent tigers; nor did the fans, which many of them carried, attract less notice.

One still moonlight night, in our passage down the river I have just named, our ears were saluted with a cheerful, spirited song, re-echoed from at least a hundred different vessels, gliding in various directions. It came from the men who were moving the large oars, placed towards the forepart of the barge in which we were embarked; and which,

as there was neither stream nor wind enough to convey our yachts farther, must have stood still, had it not been for the exertions of these sailors. Several men were employed to move each of these large oars, which were never taken out of the water, but are made to perform, beneath its surface, a kind of vibratory motion, displacing the water first with one edge and afterward with the other. To this labour the men seemed not at all averse, keeping time with their oars to the cheerful song sung by the master, and accompanied by the whole crew.

As there were often objects that drew our attention on shore, we frequently made stoppages, and then joined the barge again. In one of these excursions, a loud noise informed me that a man of rank was about to pass ; and on looking round, I saw a sedan-chair, such as is usually used in China, coming forward. It was green, the privileged colour, richly ornamented with tassels, and borne by four men. The poles of the chair were suspended at their extremities by cords, in the bend of which short bamboos were passed. The end of each bamboo rested upon the shoulders of the men ; two of whom supported and divided the weight before, and two behind. There were four others in attendance to relieve them, with

servants carrying umbrellas and other standards of honour, besides men on horseback.

In the few opportunities I had of observing the manners of the Chinese peasantry, I must confess that I was much pleased with the system of deference that is universally paid to the aged ; and their constant residence with the younger branches of a family, tends, I think, to soften the violence of juvenile passions, and spreads a degree of serenity over the whole. The example, too, of virtuous ancestors, is carefully preserved ; frequent reference is paid to their actions ; and the moral sentences that are hung up in most houses, are also generally and frequently read by them.

I wish I could speak with equal applause of their conduct to their wives ; but, although the women of this country are remarkable for industry, not only bringing up their children, rearing silk-worms, and weaving the produce of their webs, but carrying on most of the trades that can be pursued within doors, yet their husbands assume a degree of dominion, that, to say the least, is not very gallant ; and these faithful helpmates are often not allowed to sit down with them at the table, but are obliged to stand and wait upon them like servants.

The custom of families visiting together the

tombs of their ancestors, at stated times, is, I think, productive of happy results; since the most distant relations are thus cemented together by a common and endearing tie.

Nor is their care of each other, in cases of distress, less meritorious; and branded, indeed, with detestation, would be the man who should see a brother, a sister, or a much more distant relation, suffering from want, and not lend him at once his labour and support.

I met on my rout with the varnish-tree, *rhus vernise*. It was cultivated in plantations, and was not higher than a young fruit-tree. The leaves are shaped like the laurel, of a light green, and a downy feel. The varnish is extracted by slitting the bark; and some care is necessary in the process, as the hands suffer much, should the leaves become bruised.

At length the towers and walls of Peking met our view. The latter, indeed, are of extraordinary height, and of such a breadth that sentinels are stationed on them on horseback. The gates, which are nine in number, are still higher than the wall: they are all well arched, and support spacious pavillions, many stories high, which, though they are extremely plain, yet make a noble and spacious appearance.

The streets generally run in direct lines, and some of them are of immense length, particularly the one we entered. Few of the houses in it were higher than one story, none of them more than two; while the width of the street which divided them, was considerably above one hundred feet. It was airy and gay; and the latter effect was increased by the green and yellow tiles that covered the projecting roofs of some of the gateways, that had a dazzling effect under the rays of the sun, and by the splendid decorations of the shops, the gilded carved-work of which was really handsome; whilst their signs were so fantastical, that we could trace no allusion in them to the articles sold. Pawnbrokers' shops were as numerous as in London, and were distinguished by a very high pole, with a cross piece of wood, not unlike a junk. It might be supposed, that the extreme width of their streets would free them from any inconvenience in passing; yet such innumerable multitudes of men, camels, horses, asses, mules, chairs, wagons, and carts, continually crowd them, that they form a scene of inconceivable confusion, dust, and noise. Besides those who are continually passing and repassing on their different avocations, fortune-tellers, ballad-singers, mimics, jugglers, and mountebanks, with

the various crowds that folly or curiosity never fails to collect around them, (though a woman is hardly ever to be seen,) block up the most spacious streets, and render them extremely disagreeable.

The imperial palace is by far the most remarkable edifice in this vast city; the grandeur of which consists in the regularity, number, and extent of its courts, buildings, and gardens, more than in just design or elegant architecture. The palace includes a space of three miles in circumference, in which are houses for all the officers of the court, and the emperor's artificers. The front of the palace makes a splendid exhibition of gilding, paint, and varnish; while the inside is decorated with every precious or beautiful material the known world can supply.

The gardens are pleasant beyond description. In short, every thing that luxury, indolence, and pomp can require, or ingenuity, labour, and art can invent for their gratification, seems to be here united.

Whilst I was at Peking, my curiosity induced me to inquire the prices of their meat. On my entering the shop, I saw, on a stall before it, an earthen stove, with a gridiron placed on it; and, on my employing a variety of signs to obtain the information I wanted, the butcher instantly began

to cut off small, thin slices of meat, about the size of a crown-piece, and broiled it as fast as I could eat them. I took about a dozen of these slices, which might, altogether, weigh seven or eight ounces; and when I paid him, which I did by giving him a string of small coin, he pulled off the amount of the demand, which was ten of these pieces. I saw numbers of people in the butchers' shops, regaling themselves with beef and mutton in the same manner.

I was a good deal amused in seeing the barbers running about the streets, in great numbers, with instruments for shaving the head and cleansing the ears. They carry with them for this purpose a portable chair, a stove, and a small vessel of water; and whoever wishes to undergo either of these operations, sits down in the street, while the operator performs his office. To distinguish their profession, they carry a large pair of steel tweezers, which they open with their fingers, and then let them close again with some degree of violence, which produces a shrill sound, that is heard at a considerable distance: such is their mode of seeking employment.

This trade, in China, must be a very profitable one, because every man must be shaved on a part of the head where it is impossible to shave him-

self. Besides these, at the end of every street, we met men supporting over their shoulders, bamboos, at the ends of which were suspended baskets, containing eggs, fish, &c., whilst hawkers and pedlars expose to view the folds of the rich silks and stuffs that they carry in bags at their backs. Indeed, besides the variety of trades that are stationary in the city, many thousands of its inhabitants cry their goods, and expose them to sale as in a European metropolis.

I was particularly struck with the neatness of the Chinese, in their tubs, baskets, and boxes; and I heard that, in presents, the outward package frequently exceeds the value of the contents.

A Chinese dwelling-house is shut towards the street by the outer wall; and even when the gate is opened, a screen of masonry fronting the entrance, and considerably exceeding it in width, intercepts the view; but the front yards of all of them are set off by some flowering shrubs, or dwarf trees, and not seldom adorned also with treillage-work, covered with creeping plants, and making literally a bower before their doors.

As I was one day passing by a py-loo, or rectangular-shaped gateway, my attention was arrested by seeing two Chinese engaged in a violent quarrel: presently they seized each other by the long

hair of their heads, which they twisted violently till both fell to the ground; their eyes seemed bursting from their sockets, and their whole countenance seemed distorted. Indeed, I could not bear to witness any longer such infliction of pain, and walked on; though I must do them the justice to say, that they seldom proceed, however violent in gesture and language, to such lengths, a smart blow from a fan often satisfying their passion.

Proceeding in my walk, I observed before me a procession in white. I followed, supposing it to be bridal festivities. On reaching it, however, I found it was a funeral. The coffin itself was pitched on the inside, and, as this was a man of consequence, was japanned without. The frame that supported it was gilt, and made of immense beams of timber. It was shaded by a canopy gaily coloured, and preceded by banners of variegated silk, and by men carrying the figures of a tiger, (marking the military profession of the deceased,) an armed man on horseback, and a lady on an ostrich. Behind came the female mourners, in chairs covered with white cloth, which I heard was the mourning colour in China. The male relations preceded the corpse. They also wore white vests, stockings, and boots; and on their heads were caps shaped like those of the me-

chanics in England. They were each supported by friends, occupied in preventing them from giving way to that immoderate grief their countenances seemed to indicate they were prone to. Over their heads were carried umbrellas, with deep curtains hanging from the edge. Several persons were employed to burn circular pieces of paper covered with tin foil, as they passed burial-grounds, the one to which they were conveying the corpse, being at a distance. They are particularly scrupulous about the time and place of interment; and, indeed, this point is carried to such a length among the rich, that coffins are often detained at home, or in gardens, under temporary roofs, to protect them from the weather, till the right spot and hour can be determined upon. The pieces of tin foil are understood to be convertible, in the next stages of existence, into the means of providing the necessities of that new life. I had afterward an opportunity of perceiving the ceremonies that precede the funeral; and as they are remarkable, I shall insert them. The deceased, dressed in his best apparel, and with the insignia of his office, or dignities, was placed in his coffin, and an invitation was given to his relations and friends to pay him their last respects. His coffin, which was covered with a white cloth, was placed in the prin-

cipal room of the house ; and a table, on which was his image, surrounded with wax candles, flowers, and perfumes, was set before the corpse. The mourners then prostrated themselves, and several times beat their heads against the floor. After which they placed the perfumes and tapers they brought with them on the tables, the particular friends of the deceased groaning and weeping bitterly all the while. In the meanwhile, Chang, the eldest son, attended by his brothers Na-yin-ching and Ching-ta-jin, came from behind a curtain on one side of the coffin, and with countenances strongly indicative of grief, likewise struck their heads against the floor ; the women, who still remained concealed, venting frequent exclamations of sorrow. This ceremony being ended, they all rose up, and were conducted into another apartment, where they were entertained with tea and preserved fruit. These obsequies were repeated for several days ; and I understood that it was expected that the sons should abstain, during that period, from every indulgence, either in eating, drinking, or sleeping.

I told you I visited the shops. Going into a cabinet maker's one day, I saw some chairs handsomely carved in wood, and decorated with peacocks, (the plumage of which was real, and only

the bodies artificial,) with the legs hanging down, as we see them in poulterer's shops. Whilst I was in there, a beggar entered, soliciting alms. He had a bell and a basket, and he rang till he obtained some provisions. I afterwards saw them with horns, which they blow till their wants are satisfied ; and I must confess that this noisy method of supplication was generally very successful.

Whilst we were at Pekin, I walked into that part called the Chinese city, a small part of which only is occupied by buildings ; the rest is empty, and a part of it in cultivation. Within this compass has been raised the Sien Nongtan, or eminence of venerable agriculturalists. 'Thither the emperor repairs every spring, and, in compliance with ancient usages goes through the ceremony of directing the plough with his own hand, through a small field, by way of doing honour to the profession of the husbandmen.

After his majesty has directed that instrument for about an hour, a group of peasants, chanting at the same time round him hymns in praise of husbandry, the princes of his court and great officers of state following his example, and taking the plough by turns, make several furrows in his presence. They all, as well as the emperor himself, are clothed in the garb befitting their new occupation.

The produce of the ground thus ploughed is carefully collected, and solemnly announced to surpass, in quality and quantity what any other spot of equal dimensions had yielded in the year. The celebration of this exemplary festival is known throughout the empire, and sheds a degree of importance on the lowest agriculturalist.

Before I leave Pekin, I must just notice the dress of the Chinese. The ladies, for of course I must begin with them, dress their hair very curiously, and ornament their curls with gold and silver flowers ; sometimes wearing the figure of a bird, the expanded wings of which embrace the temples, while the spreading tail forms a plume on the crown of the head.

The younger ladies frequently wear a sort of cap, made of pasteboard covered with silk ; the fore part of which, rising into a point, is adorned with pearls, diamonds, and other valuable and expensive decorations ; the top being ornamented with flowers, mixed with small bodkins, or pins headed with jewels.

Beneath their gowns, which reach from head to foot, the ladies wear a rich vest, composed either of satin or embroidery. Their arms are concealed by long, wide sleeves, the favourite colours of which are green, blue or red. Violet colour and

black are worn only by those advanced in years, who seldom use any other method of adorning their heads than by wrapping a piece of cloth about them.

The men in China shave their heads, except a single lock on the crown. Of their caps I have already spoken, in my account of the visit of the first mandarins. Their shirts are made of various kinds of cloth, and are disproportionably wide. In summer their necks are bare, but in winter they use a band of satin or fur. The Chinese wear a long robe with folded lappets, and fastened by gold or silver buttons, according to the ability or inclination of the wearer; and the sleeves are broad towards the shoulder, but contracted at the wrist. A sash is tied round their waists, the extremities of which reach their knees; and in this they carry their purse, knife, two small sticks, serving as a fork, and other trifling articles. Under this robe they wear linen drawers in summer; and in winter, breeches made of fur or satin.

Boots are universally worn by the Chinese of all ranks, whenever they appear in public. This custom might be convenient enough, if it was only used in winter, but fashion can alone render it tolerable in summer. To such a pitch do they carry their partiality for boots, that they will not

receive a visiter till they have drawn them on, as the neglect would be esteemed the height of incivility.

When they visit in form, they wear their robes, and a long silk gown, usually blue, which is girt round them; a violet or black-coloured cloak, hanging down to their knees, is thrown loosely over the whole; and they carry a fan in their hands. But though these formalities are never to be dispensed with in public, even in the hottest weather, in private and among their intimates they seldom wear any thing but a pair of linen or taffety drawers. With respect to the mechanics and labourers in the southern provinces, they free themselves from any incumbrance of dress, even beyond the prescriptions of decency, walking the streets in only a single pair of drawers.

The dress of ceremony of the mandarins consists of blue gauze, or crape, with some flowered satin beneath, and is plain and not unbecoming. An embroidered badge, marking their rank, whether civil or military, is fixed upon their robe before and behind. In one instance, I remarked, that, on the square embroidery on the breast of a civil magistrate, was worked, in party-coloured silk, a phoenix; while a tiger, similarly wrought on a governor's robes, denoted his military profession.

With respect to the furniture of the houses, japanned tables, cabinets, and screens, with a profusion of china, may be considered as the only domestic articles of magnificence or value. The varnish, which is always laid upon their tables, prevents them from imbibing moisture, or being injured by dust, and consequently they are not covered with cloths. They spread no sheets on their beds. They have not adopted the use of linen, and white cotton is applied by most of them to only very few purposes. The coarse cloth generally used by them, will admit of being steeped in alkaline ley, for the purpose of being washed or freed from the impurities which stuck to it while worn. The alkali employed for this purpose, is a white fossil substance, found in plenty about Peking; nor do they in most cases require any other, except, indeed, for cleansing the skin, in regard to which, the Chinese are not without abundance of cosmetics.

CHAPTER IX.

WE now received orders for leaving Pekin, in order to pay a visit to the emperor, at his court, situated at Zhe-hol, and took for this purpose a direction towards the northern frontier of the empire; and hence we had an opportunity of seeing the flowers and shrubs peculiar to the country. Not a weed is to be found that is useless, in China; not a vegetable which is not applied to some domestic purpose. They manufacture, for instance, cloth from the fibres of a dead nettle; and paper from the bark of different vegetables, from the fibres of hemp, and from the straw of rice. They extract an excellent oil from the kernels of apricots, in lieu of olives; and for more common purposes, from the seeds of hemp, of cotton, of turnip, of a species of mint, and a number of others. The cup of the acorn serves them to dye black. They draw from the carthamus their finest red, seldom using carmine: and they are remarkable

for the brilliant scarlet hue they give to paper. A species of the fagara they use for pepper, and the shepherd's purse is often to be found in their salads.

Nothing, as we proceeded, was more beautiful among trees than the willow, whose long, pendant branches and leaves adorned the streams. One of them which we observed was fifteen feet in girth, as measured at a man's height above the root. Here too we saw the kind of sheep, the short, thick, fleshy tails of which, weighing several pounds, are so highly prized by Chinese epicures.

We were often surprised in our route, by seeing young girls, perhaps not more than ten years of age, and sometimes younger, coming out of their houses with long pipes in their mouths, formed of bamboo tubes, filled with tobacco. Indeed, the prevalence of smoking was very striking; and we observed in all the low grounds, that great quantities of this favourite herb were planted.

As our route led us through some part of Tartary, we had opportunities of observing that celebrated wall, which, carried over the tops of the highest mountains, along the ridges of hills, descending into the deepest valleys, crossing upon arches over rivers, and doubled and trebled in many parts to take in important passes, and intersected with towers or massy bastions almost every hun-

dred yards, as far as the eye can reach, presented to our view a work of astonishing magnitude. This wall, or fortification, extends through a course of fifteen hundred miles, and was the boundary line between the civilized Chinese and the several restless Tartar tribes.

We were pleased, as we went along, with the head-dress of flowers, so universally worn by the women, which neither poverty nor age can induce them to resign. Unlike the original Chinese, the feet of the Tartar women were not only left to expand to their full growth, but they had on shoes, the soles of which were at least an inch in thickness. Their features were delicate, but their complexions were heightened by art ; and the curious fashion of a thick patch of vermilion in the middle of the lower lip, seemed to be a favourite mode of painting amongst them. In the northern provinces they wear large shirts and drawers, made of calico, or some light stuff, lined entirely with sheeps' skins, fastened with leather straps round the waist. They wear also red boots, and flat bonnets with some little ornaments.

In the southern provinces they content themselves with a kind of sheep-skin gown in winter, with a bonnet, and merely a calico garment in summer. Red is their favourite colour, and is

always worn by the men on state occasions; both sexes, indeed, share in their love of scarlet, and neither think themselves richly habited without it.

The air now became cooler than we had experienced in China, and our attention was often attracted to the trees and animals that we met with. Amongst the most curious of the latter was a species of hare, remarkable not only for its quality of changing the colour of its fur from brown or red to white; but also for the curious conformation and extraordinary length of its feet and toes, which, joining together when it leaps over snow, form a broad base that supports the animal from sinking into it.

The wells in this part of the country struck me as singular; or rather the buckets for drawing up the water. They were composed, instead of staves, of twigs wattled or platted together, with so much care and ingenuity as to be capable of holding any liquid. In every garden was a well, so that the vegetables, &c. never suffered from the want of moisture. Garlic and other acrid and aromatic vegetables abounded; serving as a relish to the millet and other grain, on which the peasantry principally subsisted.

Having reached Zhe-hol, the place where the emperor then was, and having been entertained, not only with great magnificence, but with plays,

and exhibitions of sleight-of-hand, for which the Chinese are famous, we prepared to quit the splendid scene, and returned by the same route to Pe-kin; from which we shortly again embarked on the river Pei-ho, intending to proceed to Canton. I shall not, however, think it worth while to conduct you step by step in our progress, but shall only offer you the result of those observations I made in my frequent excursions into the country; not only when on the river I have before mentioned, but also when we quitted that and entered upon others; because, as our boats were proceeding against a strong current, we often found it more agreeable to quit them for a time, and pursue the land track which led by the side of the stream. But ere I proceed in the detail of the natural curiosities, I must tell you of a sacrifice, that was made by the master of one our yachts to the spirit of the river, when, from its amazing rapidity, he deemed it necessary to offer a propitiation, in order to secure a safe passage. For this purpose, surrounded by his crew, assembled on the forecastle, and holding in his hand a cock, as a victim, he wrung off its head, and committing it to the stream, consecrated the vessel with the blood spouting from the body, by sprinkling it upon the deck, the masts, the anchor, and the doors of the apartments, and sticking upon

them a few of the feathers of the bird. Several bowls of meat were then brought forward, and ranged in a line across the deck. Before these were placed a cup of oil, one filled with tea, one with ardent spirits, and a fourth with salt; the captain making at the same time three profound inclinations of the body, with hands uplifted, and muttering a few words, as if in solicitation to the deity. The loo, or brazen drum, was forcibly beaten in the mean time; lighted matches were held towards heaven, papers covered with tin or silver-leaf were burnt, and crackers were fired off in great abundance by the crew. The captain afterward made libations to the river, by emptying into it, from the vessel's prow, the several cups of liquids; and concluded with throwing into it, also, that which held the salt. All the ceremonies being over, and the bowls of meat removed, the people feasted on it, and afterward with confidence, launched the yacht into the current. As soon as she had reached the opposite shore, the captain returned thanks to Heaven, with three inclinations of the body.

Besides daily offerings and adorations at the altar, erected on the left or honourable side of the cabin, in every Chinese vessel, the solemn sacrifice above described, was made to obtain the benefit of a fair wind, or to avert any impending dan-

ger. The particular spot upon the fore-castle, where the principal ceremonies are performed, is not willingly suffered to be occupied or defiled by any person on board. I could not but pity the mental darkness and superstition that enveloped this people; and yet I respected the principle that led them to implore a guidance superior to their own.

We often passed through fields of rice, and, as I have not before made any allusion to this useful and necessary grain, I shall give you an account of the process employed in rearing and preparing it for use. It is first soaked in a preparation of manure, and then sown thickly. Immediately after it has been committed to the earth, a thin sheet of water is brought over it either by channels leading from the spot, or by means of chain pumps, the use of which is familiar to the Chinese. When the shoots appear, which is in a few days, the remainder of the ground is ploughed and made level. As soon as they have attained height of six or seven inches, the shoots are plucked up by the roots, the tops of the blade cut off, and each root planted separately; sometimes in small furrows, turned with the plough; and sometimes in holes made in rows, by a drilling-stick for that purpose. They are set about half a foot asunder, are a second time irrigated, and each field is subdivided

by narrow ridges of clay, into small enclosures. When the grain is ripe, it is reaped with a small sickle, denticulated like a saw, and crooked; and when the sheaves are reaped, they are placed regularly in frames; two of which, suspended at the extremities of a bamboo pole, are carried across the shoulders of a man, to the place intended for disengaging it from the stems which had supported it. This operation is performed by striking it against a plank set upon its edge, or by beating it against the side of a large tub, scalloped for that purpose; the back and sides being much higher than the front, to prevent the grain from being dispersed. After being winnowed, it is carried to the granary.

To remove the skin or husk of rice, a large, strong leathern vessel or hollow stone, in form somewhat like that which is used elsewhere for filtering water, is fixed firmly in the ground; and the grain placed in it is struck with a conical stone fixed to the extremities of a lever, and cleared, sometimes, indeed, very imperfectly, from the husk. The stone is frequently worked by a person treading on the lever. The same object is also attained by passing the grain between two flat stones, of a circular form; the upper of which turns round upon the other, but at such a distance as not to crush the intermediate grain. It is also performed by water-mills of a peculiar construction.

We passed, one morning, several of those curious trees, the *croton sebiferum* of Linné, from the fruit of which is obtained a kind of vegetable fat, with which the Chinese make a great proportion of their candles. This fruit, in its external appearance, bears a resemblance to the berries of ivy. As soon as it is ripe, the capsule opens, and divides into two, or, more frequently, three divisions, and falling off, discloses as many kernels, each attached by a separate footstalk, and covered with a fleshy substance, of snowy whiteness, contrasting beautifully with the leaves of the tree, which, at this season are of a tint between a purple and scarlet. The fat, or fleshy substance, is separated from the kernels by crushing and bruising them in water. The candles made of this fat are firmer than those of tallow, as well as free from all offensive odour.

But these are not the only candles made in China. A light, inflammable wood is used, in the lower extremity of which is placed a small tube, to receive an iron pin, which is placed on the flat top of the candlestick, and thus supports the candle without the necessity of a socket. There are also a few wax candles, made from the produce of insects not much exceeding the size of the domestic fly, of a curious structure; having pectinated

appendages rising in a curve, bending towards the head, not unlike the form of the tail feathers of the common fowl, but in the opposite direction. Every part of the insect is, in colour of a perfect white, or, at least, completely covered with a white powder. They are usually found on a plant resembling privet; and the particular stem frequented by these insects, is entirely whitened by a substance or powder of that colour, strewed upon it by them. This is afterward collected, and, by a certain process, converted into candles.

Of the mulberry-trees, which abound, and the cultivation of the silkworm, with the manner of weaving the web, I shall say nothing, because every one is supposed to be acquainted with the process; except, however, remarking, that, after the silk is wound off, the aurelias furnish an article for the table.

In this excursion, I met also with that peculiar species of the cotton-shrub, which produces the cloth usually called nankeen in Europe. In some provinces where it grows, the down enveloping the seed is of a white colour; but in others, owing, it is supposed, to the superior quality of the soil, it is of the same yellow tinge which it preserves when spun and woven into cloth.

The common cotton-shrub, of which I saw seve-

ral plantations, rises to about two feet in height, and flowers by the middle of August. It is propagated by seed. The blossoms are chiefly yellow, but sometimes red. After the flower drops off, a small button appears, about the size of a nut, with three apertures, in which, on the fortieth day from the blowing of the flower, three or four folds of cotton are discernible. As all the fibres of the cotton firmly adhere to the seeds they enclose, the separation is obliged to be effected by means of an engine peculiarly adapted to the purpose, after which it is carded and spun.

It is not my intention to proceed to an account of all the curious shrubs and trees China produces ; but I should be unpardonable, were I to neglect giving a minute description of that remarkable tree, or rather shrub, the leaves of which form so very considerable a branch of European commerce : need I say tea ? In almost every province in the “ Celestial Empire,” this shrub is called tcha, and is distinguished into three kinds. The first, which we denominate green tea, grows in vast quantities on a mountain of Kiung-nan, where the plants are placed in regular order, and kept constantly pruned, to prevent their running too high ; being renewed every third or fourth year, as the leaves in that space of time usually

become hard, thick, and tough. The blossom is composed of five white leaves, in the shape of a rose ; and is succeeded by a small, moist berry, of a taste similar to that of the leaves. In provinces where these shrubs are suffered to grow to their full height, they rise to ten or twelve feet, and, while the branches are young and tender, they are bent downwards by the natives, for the convenience of gathering the leaves.

The second sort of tea, which we call bohea, grows principally in the province of Fo-kien, deriving its name from a celebrated mountain, famous for many houses and temples of the Chinese bonzes, or priests. This mountain is of a sandy, light soil ; and the only difference between the tea that grows here, and the former, is, that the leaves, which are rounder and shorter, incline to a black colour, and produce, by infusion, a tincture of a deeper yellow. As this liquor is inoffensive to the weakest stomach, and the taste not unpleasant, it is much esteemed in every part of the empire.

Of this kind they make four sorts of tea, though in fact, the only difference consists in the time of gathering it, and the state of the leaves. The first is the tender leaf, when just opened, and is generally disposed of to the emperor and persons

of the first rank, on which account it is called imperial tea ; the second consists of leaves of a fuller growth, which are likewise much esteemed ; the third sort is the leaves full grown, which are sold exceedingly cheap ; and the fourth sort is composed of the flowers, or blossoms, which, though they produce but a very insipid liquor, are sold at an exorbitant rate.

The third principal sort comes from a village in the province of Yun-nan, near which lies the mountain where it chiefly grows. These leaves (and, indeed, every kind undergoes the same process) are rolled up, each separately, by women, almost in the form they assumed before they became expanded in the progress of their growth, and are sold at a high price. All other sorts of tea are only different species of these three genera ; and the diversity in taste and appearance, arises from the various soils on which they are produced, and the methods of preparing them.

We met also with the plant, called by the Chinese, cha-whau, or the flower of the tea, on account of the resemblance of one to the other ; and because its petals, as well as the entire flowers of the Arabian jessamine, are sometimes mixed among the teas, in order to increase their fragrance.

The pea-tree is reckoned very curious, and

indeed it struck me as such. It grows to an astonishing size, and the shape, colour, and taste of its produce exactly corresponds with our common garden-pea.

But I must not continue these descriptions, or you will perhaps grow tired ; for all have not my predilection for botany—all are not equally fond of natural history. Besides, I have never told you any thing of the persons of the natives ; and you would perhaps like to know, that most of the men had blunt noses turned upwards, high cheek-bones, and large lips, with complexions dark and muddy. Their hair was universally black, thick, and strong, where it was allowed to grow ; and they often wear whiskers. We saw but few ladies. Those we did see, were, from the fairness of their complexions, and the beauty and delicacy of their features, entitled to admiration.

When we arrived at Canton, in which, after all we had seen of Chinese towns and cities, there was little to attract notice, I went to see the Chinese art of printing. It consisted in nothing more than cutting, in relief, the forms of the written characters on some compact wood, daubing afterward those characters with a black, glutinous substance, and pressing upon them different sheets of paper, (itself a previous and ingenious

invention,) each sheet taking thus an impression of the characters upon which it had been laid.

Walking down the streets at noon-day, I was surprised by the number of persons I met with lighted flambeaux and torches, followed by others carrying packages. In a few moments, however, I perceived a magnificent chair, in which, I was informed, was seated a lady, who, amidst the harmony of a variety of musical instruments that attended her, was being conducted to the house of her intended bridegroom. As the chair was locked, and none but the intended husband is permitted to open it, I cannot give my young readers any description of her personal charms; though, I suppose, they were acknowledged, as the intended spouse did not shut the chair, and return her to her relations, as he would have done had he not admired her; but conducted her into his hall, where they each made four devout prostrations to Tien. The ceremony was concluded, I was told, by the lady's respectful acknowledgments to her husband's relations; when she joined her female friends assembled on the occasion, whilst the gentleman, in a separate apartment, entertained his guests.

Marriages in China are conducted by parents,

and the young lady is known only to her future husband by the representations he receives of her from a number of old women, who principally transact the business. The bridegroom presents a few ornaments to his intended spouse, and the bride's relations sign a contract, in which they agree to give a certain sum, to be expended in apparel, no fortune being ever given with a daughter.

I visited some of the manufactories where the beautiful porcelain was made; but as the operation is very similar to that pursued in our potteries, a description of it is unnecessary.

Of the religion of the Chinese I have said but little, because full and abundant accounts are given in most geographical works. I have, however, I hope, laid clearly before you the most striking habits and manners of the country; and it therefore only remains for me to say, that we quitted Canton when our arrangements were complete, bade adieu to that city, and proceeded to Macao, from whence we sailed to St. Helena; and, finally, safely reached the happy shores of England.

My rambling days are over, my strength is exhausted, and my mind seeks and finds its best comforts in the quiet of domestic scenes. But I still recollect, with pleasure, all that I have seen—

still recur to the kindness I received; and rejoice to think, that friendship can exist independent of country, habits, or manners.

THE END.

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Mrs. Blackford is well known as the author of the "Scottish Orphans," "Arthur Monteith," and several other works, which have acquired for her an enviable standing in the literary circles. She has endeavoured in relating the adventures of John Telfer, the Eskdale Herd Boy, to impress on the minds of her young readers, the permanent advantages of early integrity and gratitude. In the short and unfor-

fortunate life of William Martin, she has attempted to show the duty that is incumbent on all young people, to subdue that disobedient and self-willed temper, which may otherwise undermine, not only their own comfort and happiness, but those of their parents and friends, of all whom they love, and of all to whom they are dear. The character of Helen, is meant, on the contrary, to illustrate the inestimable value that a dutiful daughter may be of, both to father and mother; the prudence, the steadiness, and even the energy which Helen displays, on some trying occasions, will not, it is hoped, appear to be overstrained, when her conduct is considered as the result of an education conducted on those steady principles, which ensure the love and obedience of the child, by inspiring a firm reliance on the justice and affection of the parent.—*Chronicle of the Times*.

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London Evangelical Magazine.

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The commander's a gallant old cruiser,

"Vot's vell" known to old "Johnny Bull,"

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'Twas his skill and his crew's resolution,

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Should he ever be called on to try, O,

His hand at a sea-fight again,

In glory he'd shroud the "Ohio,"

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Defeated, and cover'd with shame.

So success to the gallant "Ohio,"

Likewise to each brave Yankee Tar,

For their country's starr'd banner they'd die, O,

Or make it victorious in war!



